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## **Colville Business Council Sets Date for Referendum Vote on Tribal Trust Settlement**

**For Immediate Release  
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**NESPELEM, WA** –The Colville Business Council today set August 11 as the date for a referendum vote on possibility of distributing an additional 30% of the Tribes’ \$193 million Tribal Trust Settlement, CBC Chairman John Sirois announced today.

“The outgoing Colville Business Council yesterday approved distributing 20% of the trust settlement funds to members—this will occur on August 3,” Sirois said. “This morning, the newly-seated Council, in recognition of a petition recently presented to CBC, and in keeping with the intent of other CBC actions taken Thursday, has directed that a referendum vote be held on distributing an additional 30% of the settlement.”

“We have heard the voices of our citizens and we feel a referendum vote will give the Council a greater understanding of the desire of the citizens,” Sirois said. “We will take all the steps necessary to hold the vote on August 11.”

The Colville’s Tribal Trust Settlement, one of the largest Indian trust mismanagement settlements in US history, brought to resolution one of several dozen similar cases against the federal government. Colville’s settlement was approved by a federal court judge in May. The Court also approved settlements in more than 40 other tribal trust cases.

The settlement agreement guaranteed that 20% of the settlement funds would be deposited in a trust account—this is the amount already approved for distribution to Tribal members on August 3. A petition submitted by Tribal members asked for 50% of those funds, which would be an additional 30% to be distributed to the membership upon the passage of the referendum.

“It is only right that the CBC hold a referendum vote for an additional 30% disbursement, as requested by a significant number of our membership through the petition process,” Sirois said. “We are on an extremely fast track to hold the vote, but our Elections staff can take all the steps necessary for the August 11 vote.”

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