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To whom it may concern:

As of August 15th, 2025 I am the only remaining founding member of the 2012 American Lake Native American Elders Council and the longest serving member of the current Native American Veteran Council (NAVC) at American Lake Hospital. Today I must resign in protest from the NAVC Council. I have lost faith in the male and female Co-Chairs balanced leadership and the collective wisdom and experience of the NAVC Council to preside over the Indigenous spiritual program for Veterans at American Lake Hospital, with the mental and physical safety of the Veterans attending ceremony being of utmost concern.

My return as a member of the NAVC Council is contingent upon...

- A formal acknowledgment that the Sacred Sweat Lodge grounds at American Lake Hospital have been contaminated in fact or probability.
- The remaining (unburned) totem poles must be tested for treated wood preserving agents.
- The "burn pit" soil and ash must be tested for burned lead paint ash residue and burned treated wood ash residue.
- A notice of toxicity safety (or warning) must be issued to any person choosing to attend a Sweat Lodge at American Lake Hospital.
- All Veteran organizations throughout the Puget Sound region (to include J.A.I.V.A.C.) must be notified of the acts that have resulted in the contamination, in fact or probability, of the sacred site located on the American Lake Hospital Campus.
- The Nisqually Tribal Council (including any other appropriate Tribal Council) must be notified of the acts that have resulted in the contamination, in fact or probability, of the sacred site located on their traditional tribal land.

In an effort to stop the misappropriation of Indigenous culture, traditions and ceremonial practices as well as to ensure that an Indigenous sensibility be applied in future NAVC leadership and decision making, please read the following...

- The NAVC council membership must be reconstituted to be over 51% Indigenous.
- Every member of the NAVC claiming to be of Indigenous ancestry must provide a tribal or band enrollment card. If that proof is not available a family history of the claimed tribal lineage as a descendant must be provided.
- And lastly both NAVC Co-Chairs must step down due to the imbalance in shared administrative leadership they have fostered contrary to the intended equally balanced male and female Co-Chair leadership structure adopted by NAVC. Additionally, they must step down due to their willful negligence in avoiding and deflecting the warnings of the totem pole materials toxicity, both before and after burning.

In conclusion, I feel the current leadership and collective actions of the NAVC Council indicates that it poses a threat to the Indigenous traditions they are responsible to uphold.

Respectfully,
Brad Mix - Métis Elder - Manitoba, Canada