

CITY OF SPOKANE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane, named for the Spokane Tribe and the Spokane people who have lived in and cared for this region since time immemorial, is home to Indian people from across the country; and the City of Spokane has one of the largest urban populations of Indian people, numbering over 20,000 people; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 1925, hundreds of delegates from 28 tribes gathered in Spokane for the first Northwest Indian Congress. The Congress included encampments on Riverside Avenue and Glover Field (now Redband Park) in the Peaceful Valley neighborhood, speeches, educational sessions, a parade, a football game between Gonzaga University and Haskell Institute (now known as Haskell Indian Nations University), which Haskell won, 10-9, and many other events; and

WHEREAS, the educational sessions at the Congress focused on the issues of land rights, education, tribal welfare and full citizenship for Indian people in response to the enactment of the Indian Citizenship Act in June, 1924; and

WHEREAS, a second, larger gathering, renamed the National Indian Congress, was held in Spokane on July 23-26, 1926. These Congresses were the forerunners to organizations that continue to advocate for Indian people today: the National Congress of American Indians (founded in 1944) and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which was formed in Spokane in 1953; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is extremely proud of the strong positive relationships we have with the Spokane Tribe, all other tribes in the region, and urban Indian organizations in Spokane such as the NATIVE Project and the American Indian Community Center:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim 2025 as

THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST INDIAN CONGRESS

held in Spokane, Washington in 1925 and express the City's deep appreciation for the partnerships with the Spokane Tribe and all tribes in the region and look forward to another century of collaboration and partnership.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,
do hereunto set my hand and
cause the seal of the City of Spokane
to be affixed this
7th day of March 2025.

Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Mayor

