



INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

POTLATCH FUND



August 9, 2011



The fourth book in the trilogy “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” is titled “So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish”. As I wind up my last week with Potlatch Fund I want to echo this settlement.



*Ken Gordon
running the North Olympic
Discovery Marathon
06 / 05 / 2011*

Five years ago I walked in as the newly appointed Executive Director of Potlatch Fund. I was incredibly excited about the role – and the potential for helping philanthropy to more constructively engage with Indian Country. I was also very nervous. I was new to the United States, having only recently made the move from New Zealand to join my wife and daughter here.

I was also nervous because I had not previously worked in Indian Country.

Now five years later I feel that I have had the most amazing welcome and introduction to the United States, to Indian Country, our diverse region and one of the most amazing groups of people that I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

I want to thank each of the Tribes, all of the nonprofits and the hundreds if not thousands of people who have welcomed me in, and have given me the honor of sharing their lives, stories and aspirations.



Hydaburg - March 2008

Potlatch Fund is a remarkable organization. It works in Native and Tribal communities to help those communities organize, find resources and build sustainable solutions to the issues and needs that they face on a day to day basis. Potlatch Fund today is a stronger and more robust organization. It has a great staff, an engaged Board and committed funders and donors. I am confident that under Dana Arviso’s leadership that Potlatch Fund will move from strength to strength.



I want to thank everyone that we have worked with for welcoming a boring white guy like me into their world. I am humbled and inspired by all that you do.



Everyone knows that I love food, and that I particularly love sea food. In Hydaburg last year, Heather Miller and I were gifted with armfuls of salmon. The gift of food is a true reflection of generosity shown to us by Indian Country. Food provides for the most basic of our needs, it nourishes us, sustains us and it brings us together. When we eat together we construct community. When we give thanks for the food we acknowledge a world that is bigger than us and we also acknowledge our complete interdependence. We cannot do this work alone.



*Potlatch Fund Gala
November 2006*

Hence – the quote that I started with “So long, and Thanks for All the Fish”.

However, this is not really goodbye. My family and I are staying based in Seattle, and I will continue to work in Indian Country and with non-profits as a consultant. I like to think that this is not the end but rather the end of the beginning of my engagements both here in the US and in Indian Country.

If anyone wants to get hold of me, then you can call me on 206 595 2450 or email me at kgordonnz@q.com.

Naku noa

Ken Gordon



More on the 2011 InterTribal Canoe Journey

A [blog post](#) from a participant on our recent funder tour. An article from [Indian Country Today](#) and an article from [The Columbian](#).

Strengthening Community through Philanthropy

You can help Potlatch Fund strengthen Tribal communities and Native organizations through contributions of your time, talent and treasure. Learn more about our mission and how to get involved on our website, or call: 206.624.6076.



Quickly schedule monthly donations with [Network for Good](#) that fit your budget.

Your support of Potlatch Fund will provide support to Native projects making a difference in Northwest Indian Country.

[Become a supporter of Potlatch Fund today, and make a difference for generations to come.](#)

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