



INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

POTLATCH FUND

A Tribute to John Chess Founding Board Member of Potlatch Fund

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of John Chess. John, a founding Board Member of Potlatch Fund, passed away last week at his home in Pendleton (OR), at the age of 53. While John held a number of positions and roles at the Board level over the years, it was his balanced and methodical approach that ensured Potlatch Fund developed in a manner reflecting the intentions of those originally involved.



John at the 2011 Gala

John gave guidance and direction over key grants that provided initial funds for Potlatch Fund to flourish and, as an engaged member of the Board, he regularly traveled great distances to attend meetings and community events.

Prior to his involvement in Potlatch Fund, John was instrumental in securing funding for the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Through his work at the Institute, John ensured that the historical works around American Indian history was documented with viewpoints instilled from the realities and values of American Indian people. John's involvement in the Institute, where he was Director of Development, never ended.

Antone Minthorn (former Chair of the CTUIR Board of Trustees and founding Potlatch Fund Board Member) said, "John Chess was with us, was one of us, in those early battles to build a self-sufficient CTUIR nation and to help tribes in the Pacific Northwest. He was a good soldier and we will certainly miss him."

John's presence, knowledge and gentle demeanor will be missed at Potlatch Fund, but the legacy of his service – from our very beginnings – will continue at Potlatch Fund and thus so will John's love of Native history, art and culture.

A statement from Meredith Parker, Board President, may be found [here](#).

Memorials in John's memory may be made to:

Tamástslikt Treasures Fund c/o Bobbie Conner

Tamástslikt Cultural Institute
47106 Wildhorse Blvd.
Pendleton, OR 97801

The Tamástslikt Treasures Fund is managed by The Oregon Community Foundation (EIN: 23-7315673). Donations made to the fund are tax-deductible.

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