

PUBLIC EDUCATION RELEASE – 2% Community Contribution Fund

By: Yakama Nation Gaming Commission

Contact: Kristin Lumley, Executive Director

Date: May 29, 2007

According to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act passed in 1988, tribes that wish to operate casino style gaming operations must negotiate gaming compacts with the states where the gaming operation will be located. The Yakama Nation's Compact with Washington State requires minimal distributions to local agencies that have been financially impacted by the operation of the Legends Casino and also to local charities. Specifically, the Yakama Nation must set aside 2% of the net win of table games and keno revenue and .5% of the net win from the Class III gaming machines only (*Class II machine revenues are not included in the calculation*). Those funds are referred to the Community Contribution Impact Funds. On an annual basis, an independent committee reviews requests that have been submitted by local agencies requesting a portion of the accrued Community Contribution Impact funds. That committee evaluates each application and determines to what extent the applying agency was financially impacted by the operation of the Legends Casino.

This year six agencies received funding, Yakima County Sheriff, City of Toppenish Police, City of Toppenish Fire, Fire District Five, White Swan Ambulance and the Washington State Patrol. Each of the agencies is required to provide public health and safety protection to the Legends Casino. Because Legends Casino increases local traffic and services thousands of patrons each week, each of the listed agencies call volume is increased. The increased call volume results in greater expenses for each agency and therefore they have been financially impacted by the operation of the Legends Casino.

The gaming compact also states that if documented impacts do not require the distribution of the full amount of the accrued funds in any given year, then the remaining funds within the Community Contribution Impact Fund may be distributed to Yakama Nation Tribal Programs. This year, the Committee determined that impacts did not justify distribution of all set aside funds and funding is available for distribution to Tribal programs as the Tribal Council deems appropriate.

A gaming compact requires an additional .5% of the net win from Class III gaming machines be distributed to local bona fide, non-profit charitable organizations. Each year these funds are distributed in full to local charities that submit an application for funding. A committee of Legends employees evaluates each request and distributes funding based upon the requesting organization's service to the community.

All gaming tribes in Washington State are required to make the same type of disbursements as outlined above, which is far less than many other gaming tribes located in other states. The typical range of revenue sharing between gaming tribes and states is between 8 - 25% and those tribes have no say as to how those funds will be allocated.

Mandated disbursements are minimal and representatives of the Yakama Nation are able to participate in selecting the recipients of the funds. This ensures that the money will be

used to benefit our partners within and around our community. All other funds earned by Legends Casino are distributed directly to the Yakama Nation to be utilized as the Tribal Council deems appropriate.

The above funds should not be confused with the tribal charity table funds that are accrued monthly and distributed to the Yakama Nation for the Elder's and Youth as required by General Council motion. These funds are forwarded on a monthly basis from the Legends Casino to Yakama Nation finance for disbursement to enhance existing funding for the respective Elder and Youth programs.