



## Leona Adele Ike

To our beloved people, Itukdi wigwa, Good day.

As one of the candidates for the vacant Wasco Chief, let us pray that our Creator guides our peoples as we move forward this sensitive process with love and kindness. I am Leona Adele Ike, 62 years old, widow to William Kanim Smith Sr.; daughter to the late head chief of the Middle Columbia River of Yakama Nation, Frederick Ike Sr., and the late traditional medicine woman of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Daisy Mae Ike. I am a direct descendant of three 1855 Treaty Chiefs for the Wasco, Warm Springs and Yakama peoples.

I was raised within our two original ways of life and beliefs of our historical medicine society and Washaat since birth. I have had all my life long ceremonies that include conception, birth, baby board, umbilical cord separation, Indian name, first foods, first cook, first shumxx (buckskin), and lastly a five years-long ceremony as burial regalia head sewer.

This is my pledge and covenant to our people:

- One: I will always honor our Creator and our historical teaching.
- Two: Accessibility to the people will be constant, there will be no buffer between me and the people.
- Three: I will honor and reinstate an annual service and giveaway each Indian New Year that begins our new cycle for our annual feasts and ceremonies.
- Four: I will publish quarterly reports to our district through the Spilyay Tymoo.
- Five: I will mentor any man or woman who wants to become next Chief upon my death, and I will include this process in the quarterly reports.
- Six: As a public servant, I will always abide by our first teaching of love and compassion for the needs of our people.

Although, I am the first woman for our tribe to step forward to be nominated for this position, I would not be the first woman chief of the Columbia River peoples. In our history, women have played a strong role in historical leadership. In accordance to our 1855 Treaty, Chiefs are to be elected and our Treaty supersedes all other documents.

I am named after my father's paternal grandmother, Lena Colwash Ike, Mi'Twi (Little WarriorFighter). I overcame the traumatic effects of the Boarding School era and have lived alcohol- and drug free since the age of 24. I have been mentored by my great grandmother, grandparents, and parents and familial elders to advocate for the needs of the people. My language teacher is Radine Johnson.

I have worked since I was 5 years old in the fields with my parents in the 1960s. I worked for the tribes for 41 years, Bestcare Treatment Services for three years. I retired and now work part time for Oregon State University Cascades as the student Tribal liaison as I complete my Bachelor Degree. I have served on tribal, county and state boards and committees, and completed multiple presentations on the history of the Columbia River tribes on a local and regional level. I participated in a meeting with United States Attorney General on Civil Rights under the Obama Administration to advocate for our people.

I ask for your vote and your trust to be your public servant.

Thank you. Leona A. Ike.