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## Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 476  
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**August 20, 2020 – Swinomish Tribal Member Michael Smith has been located.** Michael was last seen Monday, August 17 at approximately 4 p.m. He was traveling north on the south west point of Lummi Island where he continued north until he ran out of fuel. His boat drifted north into Canadian waters, into Boundary Bay, which is east of Point Roberts. Michael drifted in the bay and was unable to hail assistance. This particular bay does not get much vessel traffic, therefore Michael was not noticed. Michael made it to land on the morning of August 20. He climbed over a dike, located people, and the Delta Police were called. Michael is currently being detained while the situation and border crossing are being sorted out.

A diligent search was conducted by Swinomish Tribal Enforcement, the United States Coast Guard, and numerous fishing crews during the time Michael was missing. Swinomish officers were contacted by hundreds of fishermen asking about Michael. They let us know they were looking and praying for him. The fishermen were notified of Michael's disappearance through various text message hotlines and Facebook information sharing. Our entire extended tribal family was doing all they could to bring Michael back to his loved ones.

We called on everyone we could to help during our search efforts. Everybody answered our call and put their teams and equipment into action. The willingness to help was nothing less than impressive. The most common question asked was "What can we do for you?" We had hundreds of people looking. I want to express our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of Michael and his family. A lot of tears were shed during the time Michael was missing; however, those tears are now from relief and joy.

Swinomish Tribal Chairman Steve Edwards asked that we do our best to thank everyone involved with the search. We raise our hands in gratitude to the following tribal governments, their staff, and their members in the fishing community: Lummi Nation; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Nooksack Tribe; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; Suquamish Tribe; Tulalip Tribe; Upper Skagit Tribe; and Swinomish Tribal Employees and Fishermen

The Swinomish Police Department would like to extend a special thanks to the members of the United States Coast Guard who put in numerous hours of time searching and working with our search command during the effort. The Coast Guard stayed in touch with our command every hour to make sure we were doing all we could. They are the true experts when it comes to searches and we are very grateful to have them a phone call away.

-Interim Chief Earl Cowan, Swinomish Police Department