



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Central Council to Boycott FedEx Services

Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) gave notice to all tribal employees today to discontinue use of FedEx services due to its sponsorship of the National Football League (NFL) team, *Washington Redskins*. The announcement was made following the Executive Council's adoption of a resolution which formally opposes the NFL team name and urges FedEx to disassociate from the NFL franchise that continues to use a brand that is disparaging to Native American people.

FedEx is one of the football team's top sponsors and purchased naming rights to the team's stadium in 1999. Central Council, along with other advocates, are focusing on FedEx as a key funding source of the NFL team and hope that boycotting the shipping giant will encourage FedEx to reconsider its sponsorship of an NFL team that remains obstinate and insensitive to Native Americans.

Several tribes and tribal organizations have already taken similar action, including the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and National Congress of American Indians. Over 100 professional organizations representing civil rights, educational, athletic, and scientific experts have published resolutions or policies recognizing the use of Native American names and/or symbols by sports teams promotes misunderstanding and perpetuates negative stereotyping of Native American people.

The term "redskins" is derived from a horrific former practice of removing the skin of Native people for the purpose of collecting bounties.

"The marketing partnership between FedEx and the NFL team continues to promote an offensive term used during a deplorable and inhumane period in our history suffered by the ancestors of our American Indian brothers and sisters," said President Richard Peterson. "FedEx's continued support of this team is disheartening and we encourage other tribes to rise up in solidarity to support this movement."

To view a copy of Executive Council resolution EC 15-31, *Boycott of FedEx Services Due to Association with Washington Redskins*, please visit Central Council's website: www.ccthita.org/government/council/resolutions/2015resolutionlog.

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