



Glossary - Treaty Tribes Words of the Day

Álxayx

12/16/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared *álxayx*, which means month, as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day. Commissioner Meninick noted that months are counted and are tied to the moon. *Álxayx* is how Indigenous peoples count their seasons. One way the months were monitored was through the time ball. Certain people were assigned to care for the time ball.

Pinápxwiša

11/12/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared *pinápxwiša*, which means "think oneself into" or "transform oneself into." Commissioner Miller provided the example of Coyote transforming itself into different shapes.

Aayáyat ɬkw'í

7/8/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared that in their language, they do not use all the letters that English uses, and they have some additional letters not found in English, such as a barred X, a barred L, and a delta. She is trying to find phrases that use multiple of those sounds to teach her four children. She shared *ayáyat ɬkw'í*, meaning beautiful day, from an Ichishkiin greeting, "I'm thankful for this beautiful day."

Atáchiish

6/10/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared his memory of testimonies in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, justifying managerial duties in relation to salmon in United States v. Washington. He noted that both coastal and interior tribes learned their identity with the ocean, *atáchiish*. He explained that elders testified to the pastorage of salmon in the ocean for most of their lifespan.

Pena-shook'd

5/13/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared that after the land acknowledgment reading, sharing a word that is appropriate in what that land acknowledgment describes is essential. Meninick shared that those of us with a history along the

Columbia River, and fortunately, all the tribes have that history, one thing that has maintained our existence is associating body, mind, and spirit with the river and what it provides. Pena-shook'd is the shared Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, recognizing that we are part of the land, river, and resources, and not the other way around, where it belongs to us.

Wúuxam

4/8/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared wúuxam, meaning springtime. He stated that in his language, there are different seasons with identities they go through; summer is heat, winter is snow, and cold. When the time changes and leaves come out and the wind blows, it is springtime.

Ká'uyit

3/11/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared that the First Foods season has started. First Foods are traditional foods, plants, and animals that Indigenous peoples rely on for sustenance and cultural connections. First Foods include salmon, roots, berries, and animals. Commissioner Meninick added that the second half of the First Foods season will begin in several weeks, which will include the harvest of fish and roots. Tribes have different interpretations, but his tribe calls the feast of First Foods ká'uyit.

Púuy

2/11/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared púuy, meaning snow.

Waxshxwt

1/14/2025 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared waxshxwt, meaning downpour. Commissioner Pitt shared that water that comes from the sky is a blessing.

Misáa

12/10/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared the misáa, which means funny and is the nickname given to his granddaughter, who is always clowning around, according to Commissioner Meninick.

Ipeq

11/12/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared the Kiksht word ipseq, meaning red-tailed hawk. She shared that hawks are active this time of year as they prepare for winter.

Łaxáwyam

10/8/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Rachel Cushman, a citizen and leader of the Chinook Indian Nation, shared the word Łaxáwyam. This word can be used as a greeting for hello and goodbye, similar to Aloha in Hawaiian. Łaxáwyam also conveys I come to you humbly, raise you above me, and deeply respect our relationship.

Itkshnaimat

9/10/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared itkshnaimat, which means gloves, as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day. Commissioner Pitt thought itkshnaimat was appropriate since Fall will be arriving soon. She also shared that her ancestors made and wore beautifully festooned riding gloves.

Sínwit

7/9/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared sínwit, the language of the land, as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day. Commissioner Meninick shared that the Earth speaks to us every day.

Lawa'limpt and Limpt

6/11/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared that his grandfather taught him to observe colors in nature because they contain messages. Commissioner Meninick shared lawa'limpt, which means turning blue, and limpt, which means blue, as the Treaty Tribe Words of the Day.

Shátim

5/14/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared shátim, which means summer, as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day. Commissioner Meninick shared that some tribes observed six and sometimes seven seasons, all dependent on the moon and activities within the season.

Idíha and Aduíha

4/9/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared the Kiksht words idíha, which means bison, and aduíha, which means cattle, as the Treaty Tribe Words of the Day.

3/12/2024 – In place of a Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared that March 9th is Billy Frank Jr. Day:

[Billy Frank Jr.](#) (1931-2014) was an environmental activist and former chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. His lifelong dedication to protecting endangered salmon and restoring justice for the Nisqually Tribe helped shape Washington's environmental laws and expanded treaty rights for Native Americans nationwide. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

"Billy Frank Jr. Day is a day to be outside giving back to Mother Earth," said Frank's son, Nisqually Chairman Willie Frank III. "I do believe my dad wouldn't want us to take the day off. He would want us to be out replanting trees or cleaning up the riverbanks. This is a day for the state of Washington to feel a little bit of Billy Magic."

The above information on Billy Frank Jr. is courtesy of The State of Washington, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Peach Foundation and posted to HistoryLink.org.

Lalíwaša

2/13/2024 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: In light of Valentine's Day, Chair Carina Miller shared lalíwaša as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day. Lalíwaša means being lonely in the Warm Springs language Ichishkíin. Chair Miller expressed that one cannot appreciate love unless you are lonely sometimes.

Chair Miller also shared these additional words via email:

- Iyalik – his girl (kiksht)
- Atawi – Love (Ichishkíin)
- Miyanaš – Child (Ichishkíin)
- Xtway – Friend (Ichishkíin)
- Waxp – Hug/Cuddle (Ichishkíin)
- Púxs – Kiss (Ichishkíin)
- Íyautitša – Companion (Ichishkíin)
- Sámxnaša – Propose Marriage (Ichishkíin)
- Ámin – Married Couple (Ichishkíin)
- Mnuwái – Kind (Ichishkíin)
- C'I – Sweet (Ichishkíin)
- Atawishamash tmnakni awała awatawishaash – I love you from my heart (Ichishkíin)
- Niix atashwa pawtwait – We have a good friendship (Ichishkíin)
- Payu iwa tq'ix – She is very precious (Kiksht)

- Iqmaluxwan – I love you (Kiksht)

Anim and Anmiki

1/9/2024 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared anim which means winter and anmiki which means time for snow, as the Treaty Tribe Words of the Day. Meninick explained that anmiki is the time of year when the elders would not only create their tools for spring but also the time when they would share the stories and legends of the Earth, the stars, and the animals with the children. Many of the legends shared had disciplinary guidance for the children and lessons on how to care for one another. The elders would remind the children that we are all witnesses to existence on Earth. Meninick also shared that snow is a source of energy on Earth. Snow recycles the air and refurbishes the land. Commissioner Meninick promised to share the word for the next season when it arrives.

Powtykes

12/12/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Chair Miller shared Powtykes as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day. Chair Miller shared that this is the name given to her recently born son and her father's Indian name. She shared that in her family a child is given a "child" name, and an "adult" name is given when they reach adulthood.

Yáamash

11/14/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Chair Carina Miller shared the Ichishkíin word yáamash as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, which means deer. Chair Miller shared that she just completed a successful deer hunt and encouraged everyone to remember to declare yáamash when spotting a deer.

Ishkan and Kumanaq

10/10/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared ishkan, which is cedar, and kumanaq, which is wood/lumber as the Treaty Tribe Words of the Day. Vice Chair Pitt offered that ishkan is important to Indigenous peoples for carving and creating houses. Pitt added that it is easy to forget the connection to cedar because there are no physical representations of where the people lived along the land. Part of traditional clothing is also made of cedar.

Pinaá nymuut

9/12/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared pinaá nymuut as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day.

Commissioner Meninick mentioned that this word was appropriate after honoring Commissioner Clark, hearing the Land Acknowledgment read, and acknowledging the history of those associated with the river and the land. We are taught that to express one's love is the one gift we have to share with those we associate with. The understanding of what that connection is and how we relate to each other, the land, the sky, and all of creation is pinaá nymuut. Meninick also shared that there are no cousins in his society – everyone is a brother and sister. He added that one of the greatest gifts of relationships is humor. If there is no humor attached to a relationship, it means people have not accepted you. If they tease you, they are expressing their respect for you.

Emkiax

7/11/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice-Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared emkiax as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day which means happiness in Kiksht, the language of the Wasco people. Vice-Chair Pitt shared that summer is a time of happiness and taking time to cultivate emkiax is important.

Atáchiish/Atáchuush

5/9/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared that the Sahaptin (Yakama Dialect) word atáchiish/atáchuush is how the ocean is identified and refers to the vastness of the water.

Ibiaxia and Pyaxí

4/11/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared the Wasco language Kiksht Treaty Tribe word of the day, ibiaxia, which means Bitterroot. Chair Miller also shared that the Ichishkíin word for Bitterroot is pyaxí. Bitterroot is a culturally significant plant.

Kinuwaqshumax

2/14/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice-Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared the Treaty Tribe word of the day, kinuwaqshumax which is the Kiksht word for thunderers.

Ei

1/10/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Chair Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe word of the day, ei, which means pregnant. Chair Miller mentioned that this was appropriate because several staff are expecting babies in 2023.

Xaaslú

12/13/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, xaaslú, which references the stars.

Kwałamatash Tananmami Ł'kwi

11/8/2022 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe phrase, Kwałamatash Tananmami Ł'kwi, which is Indigenous Peoples Day.

Ishulxmax

9/13/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice-Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, ishulxmax, which is the Kiksht word for fishing scaffold. Vice-Chair Pitt thought this word was appropriate to highlight the importance of water quality and fish species. Fall Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead are currently running.

Shatam and Pt'aq pt' aqni

7/19/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick was not available to share the Yakama Nation word of the day. Although Commissioner Carina Miller was having connectivity issues, she texted two words to Connie Acker: Shatam which means summer, and Pt'aq pt' aqni which means July.

Alukw'át

6/14/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, alukw'át, which means frog. Commissioner Miller shared that when she was growing up, she was taught by her Grandmother that the frog was a very important animal because it controlled the water. If you bothered alukw'át, it could dry up the water and take it away.

Iła

5/10/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, iła, which means mother. Commissioner Miller mentioned that this word was appropriate because Mother's Day was May 8, 2022.

Aq'elbu

4/12/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, aq'elbu, which is the Kiksht word for Skunk Cabbage. Skunk cabbage is starting to emerge now

that it's Spring. Chair Pitt shared that Skunk Cabbage can be used for many things, including cooking and emergency shelter.

Sk'ín

2/8/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared the Yakama word of the day, which is *sk'ín*, meaning baby board or cradleboard. Commissioner Meninick shared that prior to the dams, the Columbia River meandered from Celilo across to the Wishram side. There was a legendary rock formation on the Wishram side called baby board (*sk'ín*). The word Skinpah appears in the Land Acknowledgment and denotes the people of that region.

Waxshxwt

1/22/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared the Wasco language Kiksht word of the day, which is *waxshxwt*, meaning downpour. Commissioner Pitt mentioned that since this is the season of dodging downpours, staying inside, and watching creek levels rise, *waxshxwt* is an appropriate word to share.

Twít'aš

12/14/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared the Yakama Nation word of the day, which is *twít'aš*. This is how the Yakama Nation identifies the grizzly bear. Commissioner Meninick told of the legend of this animal being part of the celestial bodies and how *twít'aš* got into the stars. *Twít'aš* was the provider of tribes.

Ilimúk and Wíwnu

11/9/2021 – Treaty Tribe Words of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Warms Springs word of the day, which is *ilimúk* and means blueberry. Commissioner Miller also mentioned that *wíwnu* is huckleberry in the Ichishkíin language.

Páxaat

10/12/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared the Yakama Nation word of the day, which is *páxaat*, which means the number five.

Tiyam

9/14/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs word of the day, which is *tiyam*, which means Fall.

Alashik

8/10/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pitt shared the Ichishkíin word of the day, which is Alashik, which means turtle. Commissioner Pitt offered that the turtle teaches us different lessons and is relevant to water and lake issues.

Sahaptian/Sahaptin

7/13/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared the Yakama Nation word of the day, which is Sahaptian/Sahaptin. Commissioner Meninick mentioned that both his mother and father were Small Hawk Palouse. Small Hawk is located at the south end of Lake Wallowa in the valley where there are thousands of little hawks. Sahaptian/Sahaptin means “stranger in the land”. Academics have identified Sahaptian/Sahaptin as the language of the region, but Commissioner Meninick offered that the language spoken is Ichishkíin.

Wilx

6/8/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pitt shared the word of the day, Wilx, meaning Earth in the Warm Springs language, Kiksht. Commissioner Pitt also shared that she named her son Wilx.

Kiksht

5/11/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared the word of the day, Kiksht, which is the Wasco word for the language Wasco. Under Warm Springs there are three confederated tribes: The Warm Springs, the Wasco, and the Paiute. The Warm Springs and the Wasco were the original treaty signing tribes in 1855 who mostly lived in this area. Commissioner Miller is a member of the Yakama and Palús (Palouse) from Colville and was the Wasco representative in the past.

Xaaslu

4/13/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared the word of the day, Xaaslu, meaning star. He explained the meaning of the nine-pointed star: three are witness to your body, three are witness to your soul, and three are witness to your heart. The morning star was once a person that walked the Earth. Light is sacred to all living things on Earth and in the heavens. Legends confirm we are witness to the sparkle of life from the heavens when we see the stars glow in the sky.

Latít latít

3/9/2021 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared latít latít as the word of the day, which is the Warm Springs Sahaptin word for wildflower. Latít is a flower and latít latít is a wildflower. Many first foods have wildflower blossoms, so this is a special word for Spring. Commissioner Miller shared that when she was young, she traveled the Gorge with her Grandmother and Great-Grandmother and they taught her to identify first foods in her native language.

Yaka and A'Yakama

2/9/2021 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared Yakama as the word of the day. Commissioner Meninick shared that his grandfather taught him oral history about a band of people in Medicine Valley who resembled small bears. Yaka is a bear and those members of the band were known as Yakama. An extension of that word relates to when a woman is carrying a child and that word is A'Yakama. At some point the name Yakama attached itself to the Confederation of 14 Tribes and Bands, now known as the Yakama Nation.

Yak'i k'íla

1/12/2021 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared Yak'i k'íla as the word of the day which means January. Commissioner Miller offered her appreciation to the Commission that it shares the language she learned from her Mother and Grandmother. Commissioner Miller mentioned that many words shared with the Commission are words that were developed with colonialism. The tribes moved by seasons and did not need names for calendar months, so Yak'i k'íla was developed after the white people came. She further explained that Ichishkíin is the language of Warm Springs. The Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama, and others all speak different dialects of Ichishkíin.

Nimoo

12/8/2020 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared nimoo as the word of the day which means relatives, loved ones, or elders. Commissioner Meninick mentioned that this word is shared by all of the Northwest tribes and some of the Coastal tribes. When tribe members greet each other, the members shake each other's hands and convey this expression of respect. Nimoo is not only a greeting or sign of respect to tribe members but also to foods, such as roots, berries, and fish.

Pshwá

11/10/2020 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared *pshwá* as the word of the day which means rock. Commissioner Meninick stated that *pshwá* is significant because rock has been many things to our people. Our homes have been made of rock, such as a cave in the cliffside. We have made tools out of rocks, not only arrow points but also gaff points for spearfishing. Rocks provide weights for our fishing nets. Rock also plays a role as a tablet for us when events are recorded within our lives. There are petroglyphs all up and down the river. The word *pshwá* has significance with our people.

Tanán ??

šuyápu

10/13/2020 - Treaty Tribe Words of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the words of the day. Indian person is *tanán* (pronounced *teen*). In Ichishkíin language, Warm Springs people call each other *????* (*waiting for clarification from Commissioner Miller on spelling.*) A white person is *šuyápu*.

Latít latít

5/12/2020 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared the word *latit latit* meaning “wildflower” from the Warm Springs Language.

N’chi Wana

4/14/2020 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller presented the Word of the Day, which was *N’chi Wana*. This is a word from the Warm Springs language meaning Columbia River.

Wałaxłx

2/11/2020 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Brigette McConville, Vice Chair Tribal Council Member, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, shared the traditional word of the day which is *Wałaxłx*. *Wałaxłx* means “Her Face Paint.” Brigette explained that there is a red pigment in the wall of the earth near what is now called Cascade Locks. This red pigment is chipped out and used as sunscreen. When on the river, *Wałaxłx* is put on tribe members’ skin to avoid sunburn.