



# News Release

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**  
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For immediate release: September 27, 2023  
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## **CTUIR Names New Deputy Executive Director**

Mission, OR – The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) announced that its Tribal Planning Director, J.D. Tovey, has been hired as the Deputy Executive Director, effective October 2, 2023.

As Deputy Executive Director, Tovey will share the responsibility of supervising 16 departments within the CTUIR.

In announcing the development, Executive Director Donald Sampson said, “J.D. Tovey has done excellent work for the past nine years as the Tribes’ Planning Director and brings a wealth of experience working in our Tribal government. His knowledge of tribal departments and programs will allow him to hit the ground running. I look forward to him joining our team.”

Tovey has served as the Tribal Planning Director since 2014. During that time, he played a crucial role in the recent development of the reservation, including Nixyáawii Education Center, Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, multiple housing projects, mitigation actions after the 2020 Umatilla River Flood and Pandemic Response, as well as overseeing the operations of Kayak Public Transit. He has served in several positions in both the non-profit and for-profit sectors regionally and nationally over the past 25 years. Tovey holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Idaho and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Washington. He is finishing a Ph.D. in Urban Design & Planning at the University of Washington with a research focus on Indigenous planning and rural development.

In March, Governor Tina Kotek appointed Tovey as the Co-Chair of the Housing Production Advisory Council (HPAC) after signing an Executive Order to establish a goal of 36,000 new homes being built annually in Oregon. He has previously served on the Oregon Public Transit Plan Policy Advisory Committee and Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Rules Advisory Committee. Currently, he sits on the Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee.

“Being the Planning Director has been a dream job. I have been honored to serve in this role, and I hope I have served our community and region well. I look forward to continuing to serve the great nation of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in this new

capacity in defending our sovereignty and furthering the initiatives of the tribal membership and the Board of Trustees toward ever greater self-reliance,” Tovey said.

Tovey joins Jonetta Herrera, who was hired in April 2022 as Deputy Executive Director.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 Stat. 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve and enhance the reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal law.

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