EVERY GREAT JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP. And STEP (Spokane Tribe Economic Project) begins a journey of incredible opportunity for everyone in our region. Why? First, the Spokane Tribe Economic Project will boost our local economy with investment in goods and services as we build our proposed development project on the West Plains of Spokane County. That, in turn, will create 400 construction jobs—jobs for tribal members, and for our neighbors from local and regional communities.

But that’s only the beginning. As the project unfolds, we will create approximately 1,200 jobs, an annual payroll of more than $50 million, and several million dollars in state and local tax proceeds—which means STEP will create a powerful economic engine for the entire region.

We invite you to become a friend of the Spokane Tribe. And we invite you to take this bold new STEP with us. It’s a journey for all of Spokane.
The Spokane Tribe of Indians continues to move forward with a proposed mixed-use development plan on its 145 acres of property on the West Plains of Spokane County. The new development will bring with it 1,200 permanent new jobs and 400 construction jobs.

The Spokane Tribal Business Council has been working hand-in-hand with local, state and federal officials to ensure all criteria are met and approved as the Tribe embarks on this new journey.

To date, the Spokane Tribe has entered into agreements for services with the City of Airway Heights and Spokane County. The Federal Aviation Administration has cleared the Spokane Tribe’s highest proposed structure of not exceeding obstruction standards; therefore, it would not be a hazard to air navigation at Fairchild Air Force Base or Spokane International Airport.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is completing an Environmental Impact Study for the development, and the Tribe is preparing an application to the Department of Interior for gaming rights for the project. The Spokane Tribe’s 145-acre property on the West Plains is Tribal Trust Land and is located adjacent to the Airway Heights City limits on Highway 2 and Craig Road.

The STEP journey will boost the local and regional economy with the creation of 1,200 permanent new jobs with an annual payroll of $50 million.

The Spokane Tribe’s STEP development will include:
- A Tribal Cultural Center
- Retail space for small businesses and major anchor tenants
- A variety of restaurants
- A casino and resort hotel
- An entertainment venue
- Convention/banquet space
- Medical office space
- A police and fire station
- The existing Spoko Fuel station

As Tribal Trust Land, this has been land associated with the Spokane Tribe for time immemorial. But with ambitious plans to build facilities and services, it’s not just about prosperity for the tribe itself. It’s about prosperity for all people who now join the Spokane Tribe in calling this region home.
For time immemorial, the Spokane Tribe of Indians lived on, protected and respected our ancestral homelands of approximately 3 million acres. For many generations, Spokane Tribal families relied on river waterways for nourishment, medicinal and spiritual purposes, with the grand Spokane Falls a gathering place for many Spokane Tribal Ancestors.

Now we share that gathering place—and the name of our tribe itself—with the modern, thriving city of Spokane.

Originally, the Spokane Tribe of Indians lived along the Spokane River in three bands known as the Upper, Middle and Lower Spokane Indians. Spokane Tribal members hunted, fished and collected roots and berries to feed their families throughout the year.

Today, many of the same fishing and hunting practices are used, just as the same roots and berries are collected by modern Spokane Tribal families. Spokane Tribal Elders continue to teach the Salish language to the youngest members of our tribe. Salish language classes are held within the classrooms on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Oral history remains the main source of history preservation.

These are just a few of the ways we continue to protect our history, our language and our culture.

In January of 1881, President Hayes declared approximately 157,000 acres as the new and smaller home of the Tribe, moving the Spokane Tribe of Indians from our ancestral homelands to the Spokane Indian Reservation. The Spokane Tribal headquarters are located in Wellpinit, Washington, approximately 50 miles northwest of Spokane.

But ties to our ancestral lands run deep, and we in the Spokane Tribe are planning new ways to honor those ties. For instance, our STEP development plan includes careful preservation of an existing wetlands area located on our West Plains property. It also includes a 10,480 sq.ft. Cultural Center to highlight the importance of preserving the wetlands and its wildlife, as well as the importance of preserving the rich, diverse heritage of our people.