

TRACEY RASCON

Tribal Telephone Services Outreach Coordinator

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation

Mrs. Rascon (Makah) grew up primarily in Western Washington. After two years in college, she moved to Southern California where she spent five years with the Kinko's Corporate Office as their customer Service Lead. She helped Regional Managers and Corporate Officers analyze their service delivery based on customer feedback, received both in written and verbal formats. She returned to the Makah Indian Reservation when her two youngest children were three and five years of age. The reason for her move and departure from her up-and-coming career with Kinko's was primarily motivated by her culture. She wanted her children to know and learn from their great grandparents (John and Edie Hottowe) and become comfortable and confident enough with their culture to not only perform family songs and dances, but to help identify themselves with their culture. Before joining the staff of ATNI-EDC, she worked for the Makah Tribal Council with the Head Start Program and the Office of the General Manager.

Tracey has been actively involved in the rulemaking process with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) with regard to telecommunication consumer rules. Prior to the current rulemaking process, there was very little support from the consumer advocate end – besides the Public Counsel's office of the Attorney General in Washington State. Tracey is an advocate for Indian families with the telephone companies to ensure fair and equitable treatment is being provided.

She also is facilitating a Community Technology Committee in her hometown of Neah Bay. The purpose of the committee is to identify current technology uses and frustrations, as well as documenting the community vision for technology in the future.

Tracey has been chosen by the Washington State Rural Utility Service to be a team member for the Washington State RUS Community Assessment Team. This team is currently structuring and has completed training in Eastern Washington. She will assist in an assessment at the Wind River Reservation in November and will then assist the Washington State team in 2003.

Tracey, her husband, and their three children live in Neah Bay.

Contact Information

PO Box 506
Neah Bay, WA 98357
360-645-2477
tracey@atniedc.com

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE
President & CEO
Turtle Island Communications, Inc.

Ms. Peltier Yawakie (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa) is the President and co-founder of Turtle Island Communications, Inc. (TICOM). TICOM has provided telecommunication consulting services to tribal governments and organizations that are focused on improving services that align with their respective economic development goals. She co-convened and co-managed two National American Indian Telecommunication Workshops, in June 1998 and February 1999. She was employed as a Project Manager with Hicks & Ragland Engineering, where she defined and initiated projects for independent telephone companies, with an emphasis on marketing services to tribal nations. She also worked as an independent consultant with the Racelis Group for a Great Plains tribal client to acquire an existing telecommunications company. Madonna served as a Project Manager responsible for overseeing, and managing a virtual team of engineers, lawyers, and financial consultants.

Madonna also was employed with US West Communications. The positions she held included manager for an inventory management team, service specialist supporting sales, technology specialist for rural marketing, and market manager for the US West Tribal Nations Market. While with US West, she served as an Advisory Panel Member to the U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment's August 1995 report on Telecommunications Technology and Native Americans.

Prior to her US West employment, she served five years as a Production Planner for Allied-Bendix Aerospace in Kansas City, Missouri.

In March 1999, Madonna provided testimony to the Federal Communications Commission on "Obstacles to Improving Telephone Service on Indian Lands." She presently serves as an Advisor for the National Institute of Health's Tribal Connections Project at the University of Washington.

Madonna has an A.A. in Business Administration from Haskell Indian Junior College, a B.S. in Business Administration, and a Masters degree in Community and Regional Planning from North Dakota State University.