-My name is Cecile Hansen,

and I'm the chair

of the Duwamish Tribe.

Our people are here,

and we're all over the place.

So, I like to say to everybody,

"Our people are here."

The story of the Duwamish Tribe

is that

they are the aboriginal, indigenous people of Seattle.

I am the great-great-great niece of Chief Sealth.

He was a very prominent,

honored man

that, when he spoke, they listened, and they honored him.

They respected him at that time,

and they should do that today.

We were approached

by the Bureau of Indian Affairs

in the early 1850s

regarding our land,

which is the land

that we recited on,

all our villages,

to help us

and to secure the land

for settlers that were

coming out from the East Coast.

Our leaders, in their wisdom,

decided to agree to the

agreement to give up our land,

which was 54,000 acres.

And then they promised us

many things,

which they did not fulfill

those promises.

I have been,

for the last 40 years,

trying to meet with every mayor of this city

to pass a resolution

saying very simple,

"We support the Duwamish Tribe

of Seattle."

For whatever reason,

that meeting has not happened.

The point is that we probably

would have been acknowledge

a long time ago

if the federal government

had given us a reservation

or a piece of property.

I'm very saddened

that this city

has a lot of homeless people.

And I have told

my tribal council,

I said, "If we were

to get acknowledged

and have that title back,

we would do more

for homeless people."

We would -- We would --

That would be a priority for us,

because, looking back,

we were homeless, too.

Having given up 54,000 acres

and we now own

two-thirds of an acre,

we are very, very proud

of what we're doing today

with our Duwamish

Cultural Center

and just sharing our history,

which comes from our chief.

I think he has influenced me

because I am a Duwamish,

and I honor the way

that he spoke the truth,

and I believe in the truth

of the history of Seattle.

So that keeps me determined.

I think the most encouraging thing that I've realized --

that a lot of people support

the Duwamish Tribe.

It's amazing. I just --

This just happened

this last week,

that two teachers showed up,

and they shared

these little cards,

and they said,

"Dear Chief Cecile Hansen."

I'm not a chief,

but that's what they said

in all these cards.

And it brought tears to my eyes.

And they kept saying to me,

"You keep fighting."

I was so moved by that.

It's all wonderful that

they're celebrating 150 years,

but I think that they should be

celebrating back 164 years,

when the people were here,

because they haven't done that, I believe.

They haven't celebrated

the Duwamish Tribe,

who gave up so much

on behalf of this city.

"Duwamish" means

the people of the inside.

But we seem to be on the outside

of what this is all about.

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