



THINKING BEYOND SELF-DETERMINATION

2022 MID YEAR

CONFERENCE
&
MARKETPLACE

JUNE 12-16, 2022



National
Congress of
American
Indians

A CULTURAL NIGHT CELEBRATION

✓ ARTIST TABLES ✓ TRADITIONAL FOODS ✓ CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

A photograph of two Alaska Natives in traditional dress. On the left, a man wears a yellow woven hat, glasses, and a red jacket with a large silver brooch. On the right, a woman wears a traditional headdress with a large feather and a patterned shawl. The background is a warm, golden glow.

ALASKA NATIVE : JUNE 14, 2022
HERITAGE CENTER : 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

8800 HERITAGE CENTER DRIVE ANCHORAGE, AK 99504
TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED FROM DENA'INA CENTER

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT INFO@ALASKANATIVE.NET



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AGENDA-IN-BRIEF

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open
NCAI Fund Board Meeting
NCAI Executive Committee Board Meeting
Elected Leader Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 13

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials/Resolutions Open
Task Forces and Workshops
New Member Orientation
Listening Sessions and Consultations

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials/Resolutions Open
First General Assembly
Marketplace Open to Public
Concurrent Breakouts
Subcommittee Meetings
Welcome and Cultural Reception

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

6:45 a.m.
7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1:25 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.
2:35 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Morning Ceremony
Regional Caucus Meetings
Registration/Rules & Credentials/Resolutions Open
Second General Assembly
Marketplace Open to Public
Concurrent Breakouts
Concurrent Breakouts
Full Committee Meetings
Special Evening Receptions, Sessions, & Meetings

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Regional Caucus Meetings (Optional)
Indian Arts and Crafts Open
Third General Assembly



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ARE YOU CONNECTED?

SPEAKERS • SESSIONS • RESOURCES



VISIT [NCAI.EVENTS](https://ncai.events)

SCAN ME





AGENDA

Disclaimer this is a draft agenda. All times and titles are subject to change in the final agenda.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. NCAI Fund Board Meeting

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. NCAI Executive Committee Board Meeting

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Elected Leader Reception

Room: Tikahtnu Ballroom D/E – Dena'ina Center

Private reception for elected Tribal Leaders and Alaska Native Corporation leaders. Registered leaders at the conference are invited to engage directly with Senior Congressional leadership, federal administration officials and special guests.

MONDAY, JUNE 13

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

Room: First Floor Lobby- Dena'ina Center

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Task Forces and Workshops: Morning Sessions

Voice Your Vote: A Training to Engage Native Voters in 2022 and Beyond

Room: Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

This workshop will provide a walk-through on how individuals and organizations can prepare a Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) plan of action for their communities. Participants will discuss election protection, how to become a poll worker, and tips on successfully increasing voter registration in local, county, state, and general elections. At the completion of the workshop, all participants will receive a GOTV toolkit to use in their community. This workshop is free and open to the public. All participants will be provided lunch following this workshop.

NCAI Addiction Task Force

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

Join the NCAI Addiction Task Force to discuss administrative and legislative priorities to increase access and improve the function of behavioral health and addiction programs at the tribal level. The Addiction Task Force continues to support efforts to advance education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in tribal communities.

NCAI Budget Task Force

Room: Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center

The President's FY 2023 Budget Request to Congress calls for a historic shift in the paradigm of Nation-to-Nation relations that seeks to restore the promises



made between our ancestors and the United States in several key programs. However, Congress must act on the President's Request in order to realize this dramatic shift in history. This Task Force meeting will discuss the newly redesigned NCAI Budget Request to Congress as a tool to realize these goals.

NCAI Federal Recognition Task Force

Room: Tikahtnu Ballroom E – Dena'ina Center

The Federal Recognition Task Force works to address the unique interests of non-federally recognized Tribal Nations, including the federal acknowledgment process, how non-federally recognized Tribal Nations work with state and local entities, and other issues. The Federal Recognition Task Force invites all interested Tribal Nations and citizens to participate.

NCAI-ITA Joint Transportation Task Force

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

The NCAI-ITA Joint Transportation Task Force is focused on building a unified advocacy approach to tribal transportation development and legislative reauthorization to promote safety and prosperity in tribal communities and to ensure the United States upholds its government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations.

NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women

Room: Tikahtnu Ballroom D – Dena'ina Center

The NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women serves as a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against American Indian and Alaska Native women. During this meeting, task force members will highlight tribal programs that prevent and address violence against women in Indian Country, examine national and international violence against women policy work, and coordinate efforts to effectively implement tribal provisions in the 2022 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

New Member Orientation

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

All members and officers are invited to this welcome session for new members of NCAI and a briefing on membership, committees, voting, and process.

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Task Forces: Afternoon Sessions

NCAI Climate Action Task Force

Room: Tikahtnu Ballroom E – Dena'ina Center

The working mission of the Climate Action Task Force is to “document, inform, and support the climate action efforts of Tribal Nations and native organizations, and identify and advocate for policies and funding designed to empower their ability to engage in effective, sustainable climate action.” This task force meeting will provide an overview of administrative and congressional updates to improve and expand federal support for tribal climate actions and will be led by the Task Force's three co-chairs.

NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force

Room: Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center

Tax revenue is essential to help build healthy rural and regional economies. Join the NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force for an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of tax and



finance in Indian Country. This Task Force has been charged with: advancing tribal priorities on legislative and administrative tax and finance policy, developing solutions to dual taxation, facilitating tribal engagement with the U.S. Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC), and sharing information regarding tribal-state tax agreements.

NCAI Technology Task Force

Room: Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center

The NCAI Technology Task Force will hold an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of technology and telecommunications in Indian Country. The Task Force is comprised of tribal leadership, tribal telecommunications companies, Information Technology (IT) experts, entrepreneurs, and representatives from tribal organizations.

NCAI Tribal Border Caucus

Room: Tikahtnu D – Dena'ina Center

Tribal citizen crossing of the United States-Canada and United States-Mexico borders for traditional, cultural, or religious purposes has been a paramount concern for Tribal Nations split by the invisible lines that divided their homelands and relatives. The Tribal Border Caucus invites all northern, southern, and Alaska border Tribal Nations to provide updates and discuss ongoing issues such as navigating the opening of the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic, travel visas, treaty rights, and searches of tribal regalia or cultural items.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Listening Sessions and Consultations

Native Farm Bill Coalition Policy Roundtable

Room: Tikahtnu E – Dena'ina Center

Join the National Congress of American Indians, Native Movement, the Alaska Food Policy Council, and the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) for a policy roundtable on updates to the anticipated 2023 Farm Bill. Attendees are encouraged to share their experience in Indian Country agriculture work and with USDA programs to help inform the NFBC what policy changes and updates need to occur to better serve Indian Country agriculture and food systems. The NFBC will use your input to advocate for solutions and policy issues at the federal level.

Protecting Indian Children and Strengthening ICWA: Tribal Nation Listening Session

Room: Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center

Since 2018, opponents of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), have tried to take down this keystone legislation in the federal court system. In response to these attacks the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Native American Rights Fund and the Association on American Indian Affairs, Tribal Nations, and allies have coordinated responses on the legal, communication, and policy fronts. This listening session will focus on providing updates on legislative efforts to strengthen the ICWA and seeking input from Tribal Nations.

Violence Against Women Act 2022: Tribal Nation Facilitated Discussion

Room: Tikahtnu D – Dena'ina Center

In March of 2022, the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized with significant tribal provisions that need to be implemented by the federal government. During this Tribal Nations' listening session, attendees will discuss and collaborate on the various tribal



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provisions that need to be implemented, including the Alaska Pilot Program, the tribal VAWA Reimbursement Program, the Tribal Prisoner Program, the Alaska Public Safety Commission, the Tribal Access Program, and more. The intent of this discussion will be to work through Tribal Nations' priorities for each component of the law and coordinate responses on those priorities.

Department of Interior Land into Trust and Class III Gaming Compact Regulations - Listening Session *Room: Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center*

The Department of the Interior (Department) seeks Tribal input on draft revisions to 25 C.F.R. Part 151 (Land Acquisition) and 25 C.F.R. Part 293 (Class III Tribal State Gaming Compact Process). The Department has prepared these draft revisions to Part 151 and Part 293 for purposes of Tribal consultation only. The draft revisions do not constitute a formal notice of proposed rulemaking. Once Tribal consultation has concluded and the Department has considered all Tribal comments, the Department plans to release a formal notice of proposed rulemaking. The Dear Tribal Leader Letter announcing consultations and the Department's draft revisions to Part 151 and Part 293 may be found on the Department's website.

Public-Private Partnerships to Support Tribal Nations - Listening Session

Room: Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center

The Department of the Interior, Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP), and the Nation Congress of American Indians are hosting a listening session on public-private partnerships. This session will focus on ways the federal government, philanthropy, and Tribal organizations can work together to support Tribal Nations in leveraging resources and investments in tribal communities and tribally-led initiatives. It will also include an overview of NAP's Tribal Nations Initiative and themes heard during regional listening sessions and a discussion by DOI of opportunities for public-private partnerships and partnership development.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NCAI Committee and Subcommittee Chairs' Meeting with Resolutions Committee

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

NCAI requests that all Committee and Subcommittee chairs attend this important meeting.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

'Fighting Indians' Documentary Screening

Room: Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

In 2019, the State of Maine made history by passing "LD 944 An Act to Ban Native American Mascots in All Public Schools," the first legislation of its kind in the country. For Maine's Tribal Nations, the landmark legislation marked an end to a decades long struggle to educate the public on the harms of Native American mascotry. 'Fighting Indians' chronicles the last and most contentious holdout in that struggle, the homogeneously white Skowhegan High School, known for decades as "The Home of the Indians." This is the story of a small New England community divided against the backdrop of a nation divided where the "mascot debate" exposes centuries old abuses while asking if reconciliation is possible.



TUESDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Resolutions Office Open

Room: Kahtnu 1 – Dena'ina Center

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

Room: First Floor Lobby – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Elders' Lounge Open

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Marketplace Open

Room: Eklutna 3 – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

First General Assembly

Room: Eklutna Hall 1/2 – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Fawn Sharp, President, NCAI

Presentation of the Colors

Alaska Native Veterans Council

Land Acknowledgement

Aaron Leggett, President and Chair, Native Village of Eklutna

8:45 a.m.

Invocation

Margaret Nakak, Yup'ik & Iñupiaq

8:45 a.m.

Welcome from Local Host

Michelle Sparck, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Get Out the Native Vote, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Emily Edenshaw, President and CEO, Alaska Native Heritage Center

9:05 a.m.

Mayoral Welcome

Mayor Dave Bronson

9:10 a.m.

Rules of the Convention

Patrick Anderson, Chair, NCAI Rules & Credentials Committee

Resolutions Process Report

W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee
Leslie Wheelock, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee



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9:15 a.m.

President's Report

Fawn Sharp, President, NCAI

9:30 a.m.

Special Tribute to Congressman Don Young

9:45 a.m.

Alaska Congressional Comments

Senator Dan Sullivan (AK) *virtual*

Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) *video*

10:00 a.m.

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Update

Chairman Brian Schatz (HI) *video*

10:05 a.m.

U.S. Department of the Interior Update

Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

10:35 a.m.

NCAI CEO Introduction

Dante Desiderio, Chief Executive Officer, NCAI

10:45 a.m.

Introduction to Thinking Beyond Self-Determination

Dr. Traci Morris, Executive Director, American Indian Policy (AIP) Institute

11:00 a.m.

Thinking Beyond Self-Determination

Fawn Sharp, President, NCAI

President Kevin Killer, Oglala Sioux Tribe

Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, Alaska Federation of Natives

11:40 a.m.

Tribal Leader Discussion

12:00 p.m.

Lunch Recess

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Marketplace Entertainment

Room: Eklutna 3 – Dena'ina Center

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Accurate Representation of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Contemporary Education Room: Tikahtnu D – Dena'ina Center

Learn about current efforts to ensure better awareness and representation among the general public of American Indians and Alaska Natives in public schools and efforts to end the use of harmful "Indian" Mascots.

Moderator: Jason Dropik, President, Board of Directors, National Indian Education Association

Speakers: Mark Cooley, Co-Director/Producer, 'Fighting Indians' Documentary,
Derek Ellis, Co-Director/Producer, 'Fighting Indians' Documentary
Representative Deb Lekanoff (WA-40)



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Tribal Nations Engaging in Transboundary Climate Action

Room: Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing Tribal Nations as it negatively impacts our natural, social, cultural, and economic resources. Addressing climate change spans beyond tribal, local, state, and national jurisdictions and requires global partnerships and solutions. This session will explore how Tribal Nations are engaging in innovative methods to address climate action at the transboundary and international level.

Moderator: Graeme Reed, Senior Policy Analyst, Assembly of First Nations

Speakers: Dalee Sambo Dorough, President, Inuit Circumpolar Council
Melanie Bahnke, President, Kawerak, Inc.

Demanding Justice: Boarding Schools Session

Room: Tikahtnu E – Dena'ina Center

At NCAI's 2021 Mid-Year Convention, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the historic first Federal Boarding School Initiative to review the legacy of federal boarding school policies. This session will serve to review the Interior's Report on Boarding Schools and conduct discussion of where we go from here and how tribal involvement will be utilized. This will be a facilitated discussion with tribal leaders.

Moderator: Deb Parker, Chief Executive Officer, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

Speakers: Kathryn Isom-Clause, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development
Beth Wright, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
Chief Ben Barnes, Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Subcommittee Meetings

*Some subcommittees are meeting in the same meeting room

Room: Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center
Technology & Telecommunications
Employment
Transportation & Infrastructure

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center
Disabilities
Health

Room: Summit Hall 2 – Egan Center
Elders
Veterans

Room: Tikahtnu E – Dena'ina Center
Jurisdiction & Tribal
Government
Public Safety & Justice

Room: Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center
Energy & Mineral Policy
Environmental Protection & Land Use
Trust Lands, Natural Resources &
Agriculture

Room: Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center
Education
Indian Child &
Family Welfare

Room: Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center
Taxation
Tribal Gaming

Room: Summit Hall 2 – Egan Center
Economic Development,
Finance & Housing

Room: Summit Hall 1 – Egan Center
Human, Religious
& Cultural Concerns

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cultural Night

Location: Alaska Native Heritage Center

(8800 Heritage Center Dr, Anchorage, AK 99504)

A night to share the beauty of the local culture. Come join the local Tribal Nations as they host Cultural Night.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

6:45 a.m.

Morning Ceremony

Town Square Park located across from the Convention Center
NCAI's Morning Ceremony gathering will begin the day in a good way, and the public is invited to share encouraging stories of faith to strengthen our relationships.

7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

Regional Caucus Meetings

Alaska Region

Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

Eastern Oklahoma Region

Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center

Great Plains Region

Tikahtnu A – Dena'ina Center

Midwest Region

Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center

Northeast Region

Tikahtnu D – Dena'ina Center

Northwest Region

Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center

Pacific Region

Tikahtnu E – Dena'ina Center

Rocky Mountain Region

Summit Hall 2 – Egan Center

Southeast Region

Summit Hall 2 – Egan Center

Southern Plains Region

Summit Hall 3 – Egan Center

Southwest Region

Summit Hall 1 – Egan Center

Western Region

Summit Hall 4 – Egan Center

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Resolutions Open

Room: Kahtnu 1 – Dena'ina Center

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

Room: First Floor Lobby- Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Elders' Lounge Open

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Marketplace Open

Room: Eklutna 3 – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Second General Assembly

Room: Eklutna 1 / 2 – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Mark Macarro, 1st Vice President, NCAI

Invocation

Daniel Lupie, Yupik/Native Village of Tuntutuliak

8:40 a.m.

Native Youth/Cultural Presentation



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9:00 a.m.

NCAI Youth Commission Update

Jonathan Arakawa, Co-Vice President, NCAI Youth Commission
Yanenowi Logan, Co-Vice President, NCAI Youth Commission

9:15 a.m.

White House Update

PaaWee Rivera, White House Senior Advisor and Director of Tribal Affairs

9:35 a.m.

Tribally Driven Public Safety: Violence Against Women Act 2022

We will focus on celebrating the win of VAWA 2022 and the priorities of Tribal Nations to implement the law in Indian Country.

10:00 a.m.

Mobilizing the Power of Native Vote in 2022

This segment will provide brief updates on voting rights issues in both Alaska and the lower 48 states, including information on Alaska's special election to fill its U.S. House of Representatives seat and on the implementation of the President's Memorandum on Promoting Access to Voting.

10:25 a.m.

Tribal Leader Discussion

10:45 a.m.

White House Council on Environmental Quality Update

Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

11:00 a.m.

U.S. Department of the Interior Update

Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Department of the Interior *virtual*

11:10 a.m.

Tribal Food Subsistence in a Changing Climate

This tribal discussion will identify food subsistence priorities for Tribal Nations in the face of climate change, describe how the Biden Administration is prioritizing traditional food practices, and explore how Tribal communities can sustain their traditional food practices through self-governance opportunities.

Patrick DePoe, Vice-Chairman, Makah Tribe

Gary Harrison, Traditional Chief & Chairman, Chickaloon Native Village

Raina Thiele, Senior Advisor to the Secretary on Alaska Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

11:40 a.m.

Tribal Leader Discussion

12:00 p.m.

Lunch Recess



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1:25 p.m. - 2:25 p.m

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Census Data as a Tool for Self Determination - Current Threats and Opportunities

Room: Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center

Census data is critical to Tribal Nations because it is used in federal funding formulas, redistricting and representation, federal/state/local decision making, and local tribal governance. However, problems with the accuracy and availability of 2020 Census data, the persistent undercount of AI/ANs living on reservations, the lack of AIAN participation in the ACS, the impact of census data on redistricting efforts, and planning for the 2030 Census, including the possible use of tribal administrative data, are all either threats or opportunities for Tribal Nations. During this session, participants will learn about the latest updates on census data issues and will discuss how Tribal Nations can take action to ensure the most accurate and fair census data for their communities now and in the 2030 Census.

Speakers: James Tucker, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Native Census Counts Consultant
Jessica Imotichey, Alaska Census Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau

No Place Like Home: Housing Insecurity and Access in Indian Country

Room: Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center

The price of housing continues to soar in nearly every city across the U.S. and income inequality is at an all time high. For those seeking housing in Indian Country, the pandemic coupled with rising costs, low housing stock, and overcrowding has taken a long-standing housing crisis and dialed it up a notch. How are Tribal Nations addressing this issue and providing shelter for the most marginalized communities within Indian Country? Housing advocates from across Indian Country will discuss innovative housing projects and share their thoughts on strategies and solutions to current housing issues.

Moderator: Tony Walters, Executive Director, Native Indian Housing Council

Speakers: Elizabeth Elliot, Executive Director, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority
Sami Jo Difuntorum, Executive Director, Siletz Housing Authority
Carol Gore, President & CEO, Cook Inlet Housing Authority

From Paper to Prosecutions: Implementing VAWA 2022

Room: Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

During this facilitated discussion, Tribal Nations will share their experiences with the pilot for the 2013 VAWA provisions and open up dialogue with other Nations regarding the VAWA 2022 Alaska Pilot Program and Alaska Public Safety Advisory Committee.

2:35 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Missed Connections: The Importance of Building Robust Broadband and Cellular Networks

Room: Tikahtnu Ballroom D

Telecommunications infrastructure buildout in Alaska, one of the toughest terrains in the world, presents unique and perplexing challenges. However, Tribal Nations always have — and always will — rise to the occasion. When it comes to facing challenges, innovation is our tradition. Join our panelists to discuss obstacles to deploying effective telecommunications networks and strategies to overcome.

Moderator: Danae Wilson, Technology Manager, Nez Perce Tribe

Speakers: Hallie Bissett, Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association
Traci Morris, Executive Director, American Indian Policy Institute



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In Our Ancestors Footsteps: Co-Management, Sacred Areas, and Religious Rights

Room: Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center

The Biden Administration has identified tribal ecological knowledge and land management practices are priorities to include into federal land management plans. With the launch of the America the Beautiful Initiative, this session will describe the lessons learned from previous co-management opportunities and explore the future of tribal co-management on public and private lands.

Moderator: Kevin Washburn, Dean, University of Iowa College of Law

Speakers: Stephenne Harding, Senior Director of Lands, White House Council of Environmental Quality

Erik Stegman, Chief Executive Officer, Native Americans in Philanthropy

Economic Sovereignty: Fixing Taxation and Capital Flow in Indian Country

Room: Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center

Join the discussion with tribal leaders and experts leveraging public and private capital and partnerships in the fight to fix taxation and capital flow in Indian Country. Both the Administration and Congress have signaled political will to combat tax and economic disparity in Indian Country with all tools available, and innovative tools to come. Your active engagement as part of this discussion will be key to maintaining this momentum for progress and to ensure that bold solutions work for all of Indian Country.

Moderator: Chairman Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Speakers: Casey Lozar, Vice President, Center for Indian Country Development

Mary Miner, Vice President of Community Development, Alaska Growth Capital

F. Michael Willis, Partner; Hobbs, Dean, Strauss, and Walker

Protecting Our Homelands Forever: Respecting Sovereignty in the Land into Trust Process

Room: Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

Placing tribal homelands into trust is one important way to ensure they are protected for generations to come. In Alaska, placing land into trust comes with unique and specific challenges that must be specifically addressed. This panel discussion will look at the issue of increasing trust lands in Alaska and its importance for exercising tribal sovereignty.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Full Committee Meetings

Economic, Finance & Community Development

Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center

Human Resources

Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center

Land & Natural Resources

Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

Litigation & Governance

Tikahtnu E – Dena'ina Center

Veterans

Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center



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THURSDAY, JUNE 16

7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

Regional Caucus Meetings

Alaska Region

Tikahtnu C – Dena'ina Center

Eastern Oklahoma Region

Tubughnenq 4 – Dena'ina Center

Great Plains Region

Tikahtnu A – Dena'ina Center

Midwest Region

Tubughnenq 5 – Dena'ina Center

Northeast Region

Tikahtnu D – Dena'ina Center

Northwest Region

Tubughnenq 3 – Dena'ina Center

Pacific Region

Tikahtnu E – Dena'ina Center

Rocky Mountain Region

Summit Hall 2 – Egan Center

Southeast Region

Summit Hall 2 – Egan Center

Southern Plains Region

Summit Hall 3 – Egan Center

Southwest Region

Summit Hall 1 – Egan Center

Western Region

Summit Hall 4 – Egan Center

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Indian Arts and Crafts Open

Room: First Floor Lobby – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Elders' Lounge Open

Room: Kahtnu 2 – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Third General Assembly

Room: Eklutna 1 / 2 – Dena'ina Center

8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Stephen Roe Lewis, Recording Secretary, NCAI

Invocation

Chief Michael Williams Sr., Akiak Native Community

9:00 a.m.

Tribal Supreme Court Project Update

John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American

Rights Fund

Melody McCoy, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

9:35 a.m.

Opioids Multi-District Litigation Update

Kevin Washburn, Dean, University of Iowa College of Law

Tribal Leader Discussion

NCAI Archival Project Update

Suzanne Gould, Archival Specialist, NCAI



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10:15 a.m.

Committee Reports

Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee
Human Resources Committee
Litigation & Governance Committee
Land & Natural Resources Committee
Veterans Committee

11:50 a.m.

Retire Colors

11:55 a.m.

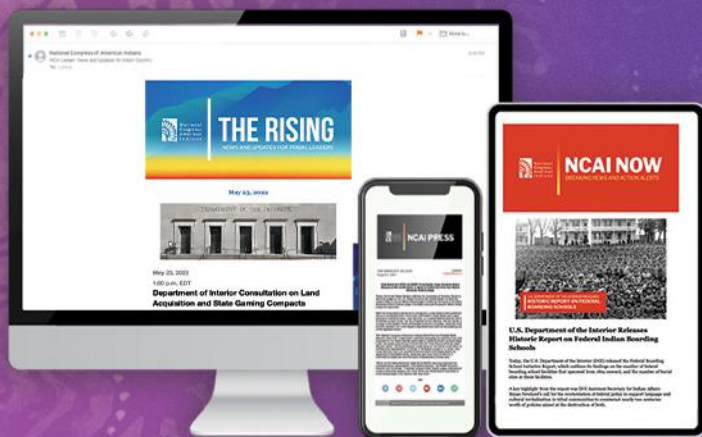
Closing Invocation

Rob Sanderson, Jr., 2nd Vice President, Central Council
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes

12:00 p.m.

Adjourn 2022 Mid Year Conference

THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES FOR INDIAN COUNTRY.



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YOUTH AGENDA

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Field Trip to Anchorage Museum

Students will be led on a tour of the museum and its collections. All costs included in registration. We will be walking from the Dena'ina Center to the Museum. It is approximately .03 miles. We will depart from the main lobby of the Dena'ina Center at 8:45 a.m.

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet

The NCAI Youth Commission will host a welcome event. Come meet other Native youth from across Indian Country and get an overview of the Conference. All youth in attendance are invited.

MONDAY, JUNE 13

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Movement as Medicine: Obstacle Course

In this session, we will have a variety of presenters from health, sports, and wellness organizations leading participants through a series of movement activities. Please dress in comfortable clothing that will allow movement, wear closed toe shoes, and bring a water bottle. Free Breakfast to follow, provided by Nike N7 (Dena'ina Center in NCAI Youth Room, 3rd Floor, Ballroom B).

9:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Voice Your Vote: A Training to Engage and Change Your Nation in 2022 and Beyond

In this session, we will have a workshop to provide a walk-through on how individuals and organizations can prepare a Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) plan of action for their communities. Participants will engage in discussion about election protection, how to become a poll worker, and successfully increase voter registration and participation in various local, county, state, and general elections. At the completion of the workshop, all participants will receive a GOTV toolkit to utilize in their respective community. This workshop is free and open to the public. All participants will be provided lunch following this workshop.

Facilitator: Saundra Mitrovich

Speaker(s): Alaska GOTV

11:35 a.m. – 12:35 a.m.

Helping our Communities through Data

This session is for AI/AN students interested in research careers and how research and data inform policy for Indian Country. The Policy Research Center and AI/AN researchers will discuss their career paths and answer questions from the audience about AI/AN research. Speaker(s): Research Team at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Let's Get Coding Luncheon

In this working lunch session, the NCAI IT team will discuss how to get started coding in a virtual environment, run a live coding session introducing the JavaScript framework, Nextjs, and show you how to join us by contributing to a project on NCAI's Github repository. Speaker(s): Paul Beccio and Doug Powless, NCAI IT Team

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Task Force & Work Groups

Select a Session of Interest. Refer to the Main Agenda.



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3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Mental Health and Indigenous Healing

This session will center around a question and answer session with Yaari Walker on her 2014 book, *Behind the Dark Walls*. Written for those who have struggled with confounding traumas such as those that Yaari has lived through and showing that things do indeed get better. This book follows Yaari's journey of healing and resilience.

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mascots Documentary Screening

Monday evening screening of 'Fighting Indians' documentary; runtime of 1:57:35, in addition to a panel discussion on tribal sovereignty as it relates to Native representation in public schools and popular culture.

7:35 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Youth Commission Daily Recap

At the end of each day, all youth will participate in an activity to reflect on knowledge gathered at sessions attended. Moderator(s): NCAI Youth Commission

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.

Youth Morning Gathering

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

First General Assembly

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch/Marketplace Entertainment

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Environmental Conservation & the Tongass National Forest

This session is a discussion with Native projects and discuss how Native youth can effectively use political activism as an effective means to advocate for our Tribes, homelands, and sovereignty. Speaker(s): Marina Anderson

5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Youth Commission Daily Recap

At the end of each day, all youth will participate in an activity to reflect on knowledge gathered at sessions attended. Moderator(s): NCAI Youth Commission

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

6:40 a.m.

Morning Ceremony

Refer to Main Agenda.

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.

Youth Morning Gathering

Ask questions about yesterday's agenda and discuss the upcoming day.

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Second General Assembly

Refer to the Main Agenda.

12:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Networking Luncheon for Youth

The Youth Commission will be hosting a lunch with team building, networking, and Movement as Medicine exercises.

1:25 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Select a session of interest. Refer to the Main Agenda.



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4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A Conversation on Health and Sustainability

This presentation from Deenaalee will explore the intersection between environmental and cultural sustainability, food sovereignty, and gender and queerness, showing the centrality of these conversations to effectively fighting the climate crisis and advocating for Native lands.

5:10 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Setting the Table Film Screening

Setting the Table was created to activate the public and increase public comments during the most recent Alaska Roadless Rule Public Comment Period. Opening dialogue around sustainable economy that shifts extractive methods to create regeneration.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

12:00 p.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Youth Conference Wrap-Up

In this final gathering, all youth will debrief their experience from the conference and discuss community action items as part of their next steps. Moderator(s): NCAI Youth Commission



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*President
Fawn Sharp*

Vice President, Quinault Indian Nation

President Fawn Sharp serves as the 23rd President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Elected on October 24, 2019, at NCAI's 76th Annual Convention & Marketplace, Sharp is the third woman to hold the position of NCAI President. In addition to holding numerous leadership positions, producing publications, and conducting lectures all over the United States, Sharp also serves as the Vice President of the Quinault Indian Nation in Taholah, Washington, after being a five-term past president.



*First Vice President
Mark Macarro*

Tribal Chairman, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

Mark Macarro is the duly elected Tribal Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians in southern California. Chairman Macarro was first elected to the Pechanga Tribal Council in 1992 and is currently serving in his 27th consecutive year as Tribal Chairman. Throughout his tenure, Macarro's vision for Pechanga has been to see the Band strengthen its political self-determination and economic self-sufficiency while maintaining its distinct and unique cultural identity.



*Treasurer
Shannon Holsey*

Tribal President, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians

Shannon Holsey serves as President of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. After growing up on the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation in Bowler, Wisconsin, Holsey served as a tribal council member for eight years before becoming president, committing the tribe to act as good stewards of its economy, environment, and culture. Among several other leadership roles, Holsey also serves as President of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council and is on the Wisconsin State Legislature's Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.



*Secretary Stephen
Roe Lewis*

Governor, Gila River Indian Community

Stephen Roe Lewis previously served his Community as Lieutenant Governor before being elected as Governor in 2014. Governor Lewis has served his Community as a Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission, a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., and a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Healthcare Corporation. He proudly serves on the Board of Directors for the Native American Rights Fund, the Executive Board for the National Indian Gaming Association, and the Board of Trustees for the Heard Museum of Phoenix.





NCAI REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

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Mike Williams

Akiak Native Community (IRA)

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Rob Sanderson, Jr.

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes

Eastern Oklahoma

Norman Hildebrand

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Reggie Tupponce

Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe

Alternate:

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Erica Rae Macias

Cahuilla Band of Indians

Northeast

Lance Gumbs

Shinnecock Indian Nation

Alternate:

Rodney Butler

Mashantucket Pequot Tribe



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THANK YOU

*To our NCAI volunteers who are longtime partners, we thank you
and your Tribal Nations for your continued dedication.*

W. Ron Allen
Chairman, Jamestown
S'Klallam Tribe

Patrick Anderson
Tlingit/Aleut

Leslie Wheelock
Oneida Nation

Edward K. Thomas
Tlingit

*NCAI wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the members of the Local
Planning Committee for their participation, hard work, and gracious welcome.*

**Michael
Williams, Sr.**
Chief, Akiak Native
Community

Hallie L. Bissett
Executive Director,
Alaska Native
Village Corporation
Association

**Richard
Breuninger, Sr.**
Manager – Training
& Outreach, Alaska
Native Heritage Center

**Benno H.
Cleveland**
Board of Directors/
President, Alaska Native
Veterans Council

Emily Edenshaw
President and CEO,
Alaska Native Heritage
Center, Co-Chair of
the Mid Year Local
Planning Committee

Eben Olrún
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Treasurer, Alaska
Native Veterans
Council

**Michelle (Macuar)
Sparck**
Director of Strategic
Initiatives for Get Out the
Native Vote, Cook Inlet
Tribal Council, Co-Chair of
the Mid Year Local Planning
Committee

Lexi Trainer, Sr.
Specialist Public
Relations IA, Cook
Inlet Tribal Council

Rhonda Pitka
Chief, Beaver Village

Presley West
Project & Communications
Manager, Alaska Native
Heritage Center



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DEAR TRIBAL LEADERS,

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Local Planning Committee (LPC), we are honored to welcome everyone to Alaska, the homelands of the Alaska Native People who have lived here since time immemorial and who continue to thrive here today. As co-hosts of this important gathering, Cook Inlet Tribal Council and the Alaska Native Heritage Center celebrate your arrival.

This year's theme, "Thinking Beyond Self-determination," is aptly rooted in our Ancestral lessons and strength with guidance from our Elders and the Ones Who Came Before Us, and those who will come after.

We have all shouldered an unprecedented, larger responsibility of providing services and relief to our tribal citizens, shareholders, and shareholder descendants in response to the global pandemic. Often, we were the first to step up and mitigate the pandemic's mortal and economic pains. Together, with extraordinary works in social, economic, transportation, healthcare, training, and other programs, we have broadened the parameters of the federal trust responsibility in all manners of Tribal citizen and shareholder life, and that includes Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), unique entities established in 1971 pursuant to the direction of Congress to implement the settlement of Alaska Native People's aboriginal land claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

For 50 years, ANCs have served a critical role in promoting the health, education, and

"THINKING BEYOND SELF-DETERMINATION,"
*is aptly rooted in our Ancestral lessons
and strength with guidance from our
Elders and the Ones Who Came Before
Us, and those who will come after.*

welfare of our communities, often working in cooperation with Alaska Native village corporations, federally recognized Tribes, and other Native organizations. We all have risen to the occasion to ensure the health of our communities, lifeways, and people.

We join you in working to tackle state and federal bureaucratic hurdles, build strong allies, and make services more promising, responsive, accountable, and ideal for our members now and into the future.

Welcome to our home, and we look forward to working alongside your great Nations.

Quyana Cakneq



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A WELCOME LETTER FROM NCAI PRESIDENT FAWN SHARP

*O*n behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), we are honored to welcome you to the 2022 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace. We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to gather in person again for the first time since the pandemic. Thank you to the Alaska region for allowing us to visit their ancestral homeland as a place of cultural celebration and a forum to discuss important issues facing Indian Country.

As we embark upon this first convening together, we reflect upon the historical challenges our ancestors faced to secure our inherent sovereignty, and the contemporary challenges that have arisen since 2020. We recognize that the times have called for a new approach, one in which we begin to think differently about self-governance and how we further the Nation-to-Nation relationship with the federal government.

This year's conference theme, "Thinking Beyond Self-Determination," marks a new era of tribal governance, one in which our voices are firmly front and center. Together we will usher in a time of proactive strategic advocacy and governance that will shape Tribal Nations for years to come.

This week, we invite you to join us in defining this new era where we collectively carve a bright and prosperous path forward for Indian Country. We hope you leave the Mid Year Conference & Marketplace with a renewed and hopeful vision for the future of our communities.

Siokwil,

President Fawn Sharp

National Congress of American Indians



National
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LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

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NCAI Board, Tribal Leaders and Conference Attendees:

Cama'i and welcome to the 2022 Mid Year Conference! I appreciate you coming together this week – in person in Anchorage, Alaska. I cannot think of a better place than my state to collectively explore the theme of this year's mid-year conference "Thinking Beyond Self-Determination," given the unique federal Indian law structure that Alaska Indigenous peoples, Tribes, and institutions navigate across Alaska to deliver positive outcomes for all Native people.

Alaska has more Indigenous people as a percentage of a state's total population than any other state in the Union. Alaska is also home to more than 200 (roughly 40 percent) of all federally recognized Tribes. Tribes in Alaska have long been leaders in self-determination and self-governance. They were some of the first to negotiate self-governance compacts and have created service delivery institutions in health care and governmental services that are essential to not only Alaska Natives but all Alaskans.

Last December, we marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which added another layer of landownership across the state and led to a different federal Indian policy compared to the Lower 48 states. ANCSA mandated creation of private, for-profit corporations owned by Alaska Native shareholders. These corporations (12 regional and 174 village) hold title to roughly 44 million acres of land. Except for in Metlakatla, Alaska Native people do not live on reservations. Land ownership and the sovereign governmental relationship are held by different types of entities. Each Alaska Native community is unique and carries different histories and cultures. These types of conferences help bring the diverse views and experiences of Native leaders from across the country together to share their perspectives and priorities.

Currently, I serve as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Ranking Member on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee; and Member of the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. In response to tribal testimony and input, we have made significant progress on policy affecting Native peoples. In March of this year, we secured a historic, bipartisan win for protection of women when we finally passed a reauthorization and modernization of the *Violence Against Women Act*, containing a strong Tribal title to enhance public safety in Native communities. These reforms will strengthen and restore tribal jurisdiction over domestic violence and related crimes, benefiting not only the Tribes in the Lower 48 but also those in Alaska.

In addition to promoting safety in communities, I was proud to be one of the architects of the bipartisan infrastructure law. As a lead negotiator of the bill, I made sure that Native communities were front and center. The tribal investments we included will help close the digital divide by providing funding for broadband and telecommunications needs. We also secured

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resilience and community relocation. On these and many other pressing issues facing Native communities, building understanding and bipartisan support is paramount to enacting enduring policy change.

Your meeting provides an opportunity for attendees to share their experiences, develop consensus policy positions, and voice their concerns with federal officials. With the input of Native leaders across the nation, I am looking forward to continuing to advance policy priorities with Tribes and Native people, because we know much work remains.

Again, welcome and I wish you all a productive conference!

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

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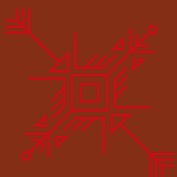
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United States Senate

June 12, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader,

Welcome to Anchorage for the 2022 National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference! I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome you to the great state of Alaska, home to almost half the nation's Tribes!

Alaska is a unique place. We are the largest state in the union by more than a measure of two. But we have a small population scattered throughout over 200 communities, and have less road miles than Connecticut, one of the smallest states in the country. Over 80 percent of our communities are not on the small road system we do have. Because of these challenges, Alaskans have had to find creative solutions to provide the best opportunities for Alaskans, regardless of where they live.

The Alaska Native Tribal delivery system is one of a kind in the nation. It is through the partnerships between Alaska's 229 Tribes and the approximate 200 Alaska Native Corporations, that any Alaska Native or American Indian, regardless of where they are from, Tribal membership, or ANC shareholder status, can receive Tribal services throughout our state. Rooted in the authority provided by the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Tribal health and housing systems are able to serve areas such as Fairbanks, and right here in Anchorage. Without these partnerships, two of our state's largest population centers would be without world-class medical care. The importance of these partnerships for delivering Tribal services to the Alaska Native population cannot be overstated.

While you are here visiting our great state, please take the opportunity to see firsthand that while we may operate differently here in Alaska, it does not mean Alaska Native people are less deserving of the special trust relationship between Native people and the federal government.

This conference is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what makes us all unique and successful. It's a time to recognize that all of our partnerships matter. And while our system may not look like the system you have in the Lower-48, it is a system that has thrived here in Alaska. I wish you the best for your conference.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2022

Dear Tribal Leaders,

Welcome to the National Congress of American Indians 2022 Mid-Year Conference. Thank you for taking part in this excellent opportunity for you to come together and address issues critical to all Native communities. We are glad the conference has returned in-person to Anchorage this year, and, for all of those visiting from outside the state, we hope you enjoy your time in the great state of Alaska.

This is also the first conference in recent memory where Alaska's Congressional Delegation is incomplete, and this welcome letter is coming from the Office of the District of Alaska – At Large rather than Congressman Don Young, who passed away on March 18, 2022, while traveling home to Alaska to be with the state and people that he loved.

Congressman Don Young was a champion for the Alaska Native community and all indigenous peoples of the United States during his 49 years serving as Alaska's sole Congressman in the House of Representatives. He was a fierce defender of Native self-determination, treaty rights, and the federal trust responsibility. His consistent, unswerving advocacy of Alaska's unique forms of tribal self-governance and Alaska Native self-determination was part of what made him the Congressman for All Alaska.

Last year in his welcome letter to this same mid-year conference, Congressman Young wrote: "While Tribal unity on issues can be elusive and is not always warranted, it is a tremendously powerful force that can drive positive political change. I urge you to use this Conference as an opportunity to seek common ground on controversial issues. When Native voices unite on a tough topic, the consensus helps to clear the path so that Tribes' allies in Congress can make real progress."

Congressman Young's legacy as a fighter for Alaska and Alaska Natives will live on, as will his personal example of fundamental goodness and his honor. We hope that the Congressman's example and legacy will continue to inspire all Native Leaders and friends of the Native community towards solutions that improve the lives of indigenous people throughout the United States.

May your time at the Conference be rewarding and leave you energized, ready to continue your pursuits in championing policies and solutions that will meet the needs and dreams of all Native peoples.

Thank you,

All the Staff of the
Office of the District of Alaska – At Large

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Juneau, AK 99811-0001
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550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy STATE OF ALASKA

June 12, 2022

Dear Fellow Alaskans and Members,

Welcome to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 2022 Mid-Year Conference! For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began, I am happy to see that NCAI can hold an in-person conference this year. The theme, "Thinking Beyond Self-Determination," is supremely fitting given it has been a long two years of separation from family and friends.



Established in 1944 in Denver, Colorado, NCAI is the oldest, most prominent, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native political organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. Their work helps improve our State, Indigenous communities, and peoples.

I hope that this year's in-person conference provides the NCAI leaders and participants with a clear mind as they cultivate strategies and navigate collaborations that will vastly improve all regions of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

2022 NCAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT



PAVING THE WAY TO ‘THINKING BEYOND SELF-DETERMINATION’

The world changed in 2020. In a year of an unprecedented global pandemic, Tribal Nations, like all governments, faced significant challenges to keep their communities safe. With the added pressures of the decennial census and a pivotal presidential election—mechanisms that would both impact federal funding formulas and policy agendas alike—tribal leaders were tasked with making critical decisions that would affect their nations for years to come.

Indian Country banded together to hold the federal government to its rightful trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations and worked around the clock to advocate for critical resources needed to sustain and protect tribal communities. As a result, novel COVID-19 relief packages—which included the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act—brought billions of dollars to Indian Country in 2020. The following year, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 became the largest investment of resources into Indian Country and tribal communities in U.S. history.

With an unmatched infusion of federal dollars, and bold, courageous tribal leadership, Tribal Nations now find themselves in federal conversations—not only with a proverbial seat at the table, but with the ability to set the agenda.



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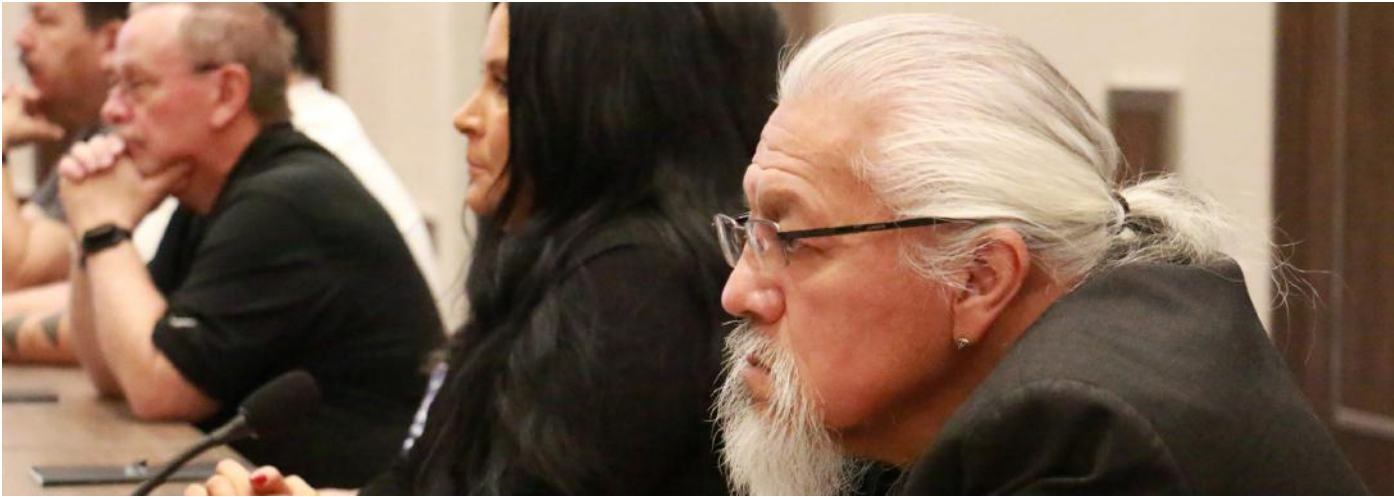


“As tribal leaders and members of NCAI’s Executive Committee, we realized the times have called for us to embrace a new era in which we are thinking beyond self-determination and beginning to define a Nation-to-Nation period of tribal governance.” - NCAI President Fawn Sharp

Recognizing this emerging shift in tribal governance, the National Congress of American Indians’ (NCAI) Executive Committee gathered on the Gila River Indian Community reservation in March 2022 to discuss how NCAI can support this changing dynamic. As elected representatives from each of the 12 NCAI regions, the Executive Committee brought their first-hand experience as tribal leaders navigating changing times to the conversation. As a result, this year’s NCAI 2022 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace theme, “Thinking Beyond Self-Determination,” was born.

“As tribal leaders and members of NCAI’s Executive Committee, we realized the times have called for us to embrace a new era in which we are thinking beyond self-determination and beginning to define a Nation-to-Nation period of tribal governance,” said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. “Thinking Beyond Self-Determination’ is a way to set the stage and usher in a time of proactive strategic thinking, advocacy, and governance.”





NCAI took an additional step in its commitment to help define, support, and enhance 21st Century tribal governance by creating the recently announced Sovereignty Institute. The NCAI Sovereignty Institute aims to develop usable data and resources to support the ability of Tribal Nations in seizing expanded opportunities for self-governance through a range of innovative programs (see page 38).

Tribal Nations are at a critical moment in history and the time calls for innovative, forward-thinking approaches to leadership and governance. This week in Anchorage, Alaska, Indian Country will once again gather to set clear priorities on issues, focus on the fundamentals and protection of sovereignty, and move forward unified—just as it has every year since NCAI's founding in 1944. But this time, Tribal Nations have the opportunity to seize the moment and shape their own futures on their own terms.



“Thinking Beyond Self-Determination’ is a way to set the stage and usher in a time of proactive strategic thinking, advocacy, and governance.”

- NCAI President Fawn Sharp



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NCAI POLICY AND LEGAL UPDATE

The record number of policy initiatives and unprecedented engagement between Tribal Nations, the Administration, and Congress continues to build new opportunities and possibilities for Indian Country. NCAI's Policy and Legal teams have been working with tribal leaders and partner organizations to advocate, inform policymakers, and ensure that Indian Country's priorities are included in policy actions.

During the Biden-Harris Administration's first White House Tribal Nations Summit in November 2021, President Biden discussed building a new era of the Nation-to-Nation relationship. Landmark legislation, such as the 2022 Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, has set a new standard—one that is firmly rooted in acknowledging inherent tribal sovereignty and striding towards full governmental parity. As we move towards a new era of thinking beyond self-determination, the policy progress and pathway forward must be defined by tribal governments as true governmental partners.

The policy and legal highlights below track key congressional, administrative, and judicial actions impacting Indian Country. NCAI's Policy and Legal teams are continuing to advocate and inform policymakers to ensure that tribal leaders are at the table to provide solutions and ensure that Indian Country's priorities are heard.

Social and Cultural Resources

The survival and prosperity of Tribal Nations is rooted in the education, health, and welfare of their citizens and depends on the protection of our cultural and spiritual expressions. The Administration and Congress must work with Tribal Nations to meet the educational needs of Native youth, provide adequate mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS), offer support for elders and veterans, and supply the necessary social services for everyone, all while



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protecting, promoting, and incorporating our cultural lifeways in the planning and enacting of policies and programs for Indian Country. These elements are essential to safeguarding and advancing tribal sovereignty and maintaining Tribal Nations' cultural vitality. Some recent policy highlights furthering support for tribal social and cultural resources include:

- **DOI Task Force to Replace Derogatory Place Names:** The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)'s Task Force and Committee to Replace Derogatory Place Names held tribal consultation on the list of candidate replacement names for geographic place names containing Sq _ _ _ and has officially sought nominations to serve on the Committee.
- **Mandatory Funding Request for IHS:** The President's FY 2023 Budget Request includes a historic request for mandatory appropriations funding for the Indian Health Service to address chronic underfunding and to guarantee stable funding. NCAI President Fawn Sharp testified on its importance before the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in April 2022.
- **Tribal Representation Expansion Project:** After years of advocacy to receive proper representation, the Veterans Affairs Administration established its Tribal Representation Expansion Project to authorize Tribal Veterans Service Offices providing parity with state organizations.
- **White House Initiative on TCUs:** The White House announced the Initiative on Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and, in President Biden's Executive Order, identified the dire need to protect and preserve our languages and the critical role TCUs play in that effort.

Community Development and Infrastructure

Safe, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure is a necessary feature of vibrant and healthy tribal communities. Deteriorating or non-existent infrastructure in Indian Country jeopardizes the health, safety, and economic status of Tribal Nations and their citizens. Following the final passage of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the federal government has taken a more active and tribally-driven approach to addressing Indian Country's crumbling infrastructure, marking a hopeful transition towards honoring the federal trust and treaty responsibility. The more than \$13 billion going directly to Indian Country and the nearly \$146 billion in funding Tribal Nations are eligible for through inclusion in programs and authorities throughout the IIJA helps usher in a new standard for tribal parity and governmental equity.



With President Biden declaring the next decade the “infrastructure decade,” there has been a bevy of implementation and planning events hosted by federal agencies. The U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, and additional agencies have held dozens of webinars, listening sessions, and tribal consultations on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The White House also released a guidebook detailing all opportunities in the BIL for tribal, state, and local governments. The work truly begins now—Tribal Nations must be included as governmental partners and part of the planning process with federal and state partners and receive equitable distribution for Indian Country in the larger funding opportunities, such as discretionary grants, rural programs, and state funding. Federal agencies must not only coordinate with Tribal Nations, but also with each other when distributing infrastructure funding for Indian Country over the next decade.



Other notable infrastructure policy developments in 2022 include:

- **S. 2264 - The Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA):** The NAHASDA Reauthorization Bill was approved by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, marking the most progress the reauthorization bill has made in the Senate since 2015.
- **USDA 502 Direct Loan Program:** After many years of advocacy by NCAI and various national and regional Native housing organizations, the USDA 502 Direct Loan Program Tribal Relending Pilot expansion funding was included in the President’s Budget for the first time. This important program helps increase homeownership in Indian Country by supporting the growth and capacity of Native Community Development Financial Institutions in tribal communities
- **FCC E-Rate Program:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) updated their official definition of a “library” under the E-Rate program rules to formally include tribal libraries, resolving a longstanding issue that limited their access to affordable broadband connectivity through the program.
- **Federal Tribal Aviation Symposium:** The first-ever Federal Tribal Aviation Symposium hosted by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), along with first-time tribal specific funding at the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) marks an important shift towards multi-modal transportation policy in Indian Country.





Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources

Tribal Nations and their communities maintain a strong physical, cultural, and interdependent relationship with their homelands, natural resources, and environment. Robust policies and adequate funding for climate change, conservation, water rights, land management, agriculture and food, fishery management, wildlife, energy, and co-management opportunities are essential to protecting tribal homelands and resources. NCAI, in partnership with Tribal Nations and Native organizations, remains committed to advancing Indian Country's environmental and natural resources priorities in Congress, with the Administration, and at international forums. Tribal Nations are at the forefront of fighting the climate crisis and must be at the table—as sovereigns, partners, and equals—to bring forward solutions.



Highlights since NCAI's 2021 Annual Convention include:

- **COP26 and NCAI President Sharp's Delegation Status:** In November 2021, NCAI President Fawn Sharp was credentialed as a United States Delegate during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), becoming the first tribal leader to receive full credentials in United States history. President Sharp and the NCAI delegation were active in the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change, collaborated with Indigenous peoples from across the world, and met with numerous U.S. and foreign officials, including U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Debra Haaland and Special Presidential Envoy John Kerry.
- **Incorporation of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Federal Decision Making:** During the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Council on Environmental Quality issued a memorandum titled, "Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making." This memorandum recognized the importance of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) and committing to elevate its role in federal scientific and policy processes. This memorandum establishes an Interagency Working Group on ITEK and promises the development of federal guidance on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge for federal agencies to be released later in 2022.
- **Rescission of the 1975 Morton Memorandum:** On April 7, 2022, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the rescission of the 1975 Morton Memorandum, which prohibited many Tribal Nations from exercising their authority to implement water codes. The





Department of the Interior announced it will begin tribal consultation to discuss tribal water code approval authority and guidance.

- **DOI-USDA Joint Secretarial Order on Tribal Co-Stewardship:** Last November, the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture created the Tribal Homelands Initiative. Through a joint Secretarial order, the two departments codified a policy to facilitate agreements with Tribal Nations to collaborate in the co-stewardship of federal lands and waters. The Joint Order additionally directs the departments to ensure that tribal governments play an integral role in decision-making related to the management of federal lands and waters through consultation and capacity building.



- **Tribal Climate Resilience Program:** Due to years of advocacy and collaboration by Tribal Nations, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience Program saw a significant increase in funding available via its Annual Awards Program. This fiscal year alone, the Tribal Climate Resilience Program is expected to release approximately \$46 million in funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and FY 2022 annual appropriations—a 233% increase from its previous fiscal year funding allocation of \$13.8 million.

National Security and Community Safety

To ensure that Tribal Nations can protect against criminal activity, natural disasters, and national security threats, tribal jurisdiction must be restored and Indian Country's first responders must have the resources needed to keep tribal communities safe and secure for everyone. NCAI, along with tribal leaders and partners, have continued to advocate for critical changes to advance these priorities within federal policy.

The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization: In March 2022, Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law, a historic reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as part of H.R. 2471 - the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022. The 2022 VAWA Reauthorization represents a substantial step forward in the Nation-to-Nation relationship by further restoring tribal jurisdiction and acknowledging tribal governments' inherent sovereign rights, and includes provisions which:



- Restore tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians for certain crimes involving children, sexual violence, stalking, sex trafficking, obstruction of justice, and assaults against law enforcement and corrections personnel;
- Ensure that VAWA reaches all corners of Indian Country by clarifying that the law applies to all Tribal Nations in Maine and by establishing an Alaska pilot project for Alaska Native Villages to exercise Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators; and
- Significantly increase resources for Tribal Nations, establish a new tribal reimbursement program, improve the Tribal Access Program, and make permanent the 2010 Bureau of Prisons Tribal Prisoner Program.



NCAI hosted a virtual Tribal Leader Town Hall on the 2022 VAWA Reauthorization featuring NCAI leadership, tribal leaders, U.S. Senators, and special guests to celebrate the historic wins for Indian Country, review the tribal provisions, share VAWA resources for Tribal Nations, and highlight the next steps for Indian Country. The work continues and our federal partners must work with Tribal Nations so the full scope and purpose of the 2022 VAWA Reauthorization is realized.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Reauthorization: The Family Violence and Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) provides critical support for tribal domestic violence shelters, training and technical assistance centers, safety planning, emergency response hotlines, and prevention initiatives. The House and Senate marked up the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 (S. 1275 and H.R. 2019) at the committee level and are negotiating when to take the bills to the floor. FVPSA will increase funding for Tribal Nations and codify an Indian Domestic Violence Hotline and an Alaska Native Resource Center.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples: On November 25, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14053: Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People, to coordinate federal agencies and law enforcement in order to prevent and respond to violence against Native



Americans. Additionally, on May 5, 2022, Secretary Deb Haaland announced the Not Invisible Act Commission membership, which is comprised of federal and non-federal individuals who will work to combat the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.

Federal Spending and Revenue

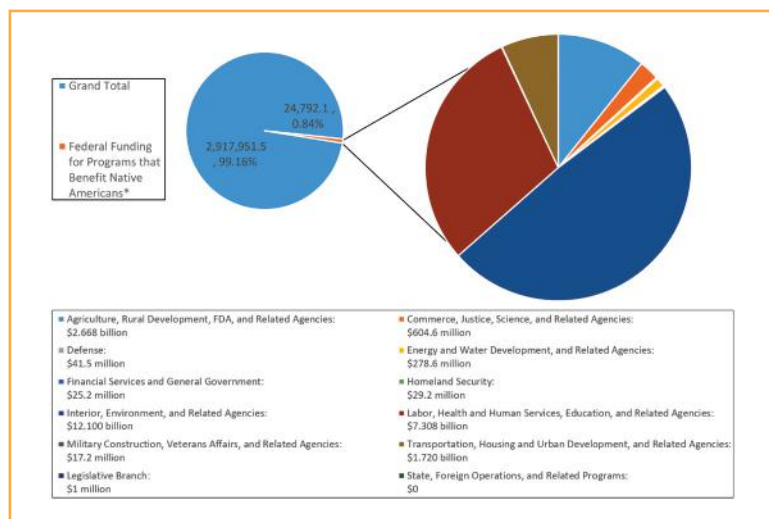
When Tribal Nations ceded millions of acres of land that made the United States what it is today, it was done for a promise—a prepaid promise—that the federal government would support tribal self-governance, protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights. Funding the trust responsibility is critical to fulfilling the fiduciary relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations. Unfortunately, chronically underfunded and sometimes inefficiently structured federal programs have left many basic obligations of the United States to Tribal Nations unmet for centuries. These unmet needs contribute to the inequities observed in Native American communities. Additionally, Tribal Nations’ inherent sovereign right to tax is an essential and a necessary instrument of self-government, but dual taxation policies limit Tribal Nations’ ability to provide government functions without additional revenue generated by economic development efforts.

On March 15, 2022, President Biden signed into law the H.R. 2471 - the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (“Omnibus”), funding the government through September 30, 2022. The Omnibus provides:

- **\$2.3 billion** for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with:
- **\$297.7 million** for Criminal Investigations and Police Services,
- **\$32.0 million** for Tribal Climate Resilience,
- **\$5 million** for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Initiative, and
- **\$7 million** to implement the Native boarding school initiative;
- **\$1.3 billion** for the Bureau of Indian Education;
- **\$6.6 billion** for the Indian Health Service;
- **\$1.0 billion** for the HUD Native American Programs;
- **\$638.2 million** for the Tribal Transportation Program, Transit Program, and Facility Bridges tribal set-aside (subject to Obligation Limitation);
- **\$237 million** for Department of Justice Tribal Grants and Victim Assistance; and
- **\$58 million** for the Department of Energy’s Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.

On March 28, 2022, the White House released the President’s FY 2023 Budget Request to Congress—a historic request that includes several proposals and funding increases Tribal Nations have spent decades advocating for.

*This amount is the best available estimate, subject to actual obligations and expenditures.





The President's FY 2023 Budget includes:

- **\$9.1 billion** for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and to shift IHS spending from discretionary to mandatory funding;
- **\$4.5 billion** for U.S. Department of the Interior tribal programs, including a proposal to reclassify Contract Support Costs and Section 105(l) Payments for Tribal Leases as mandatory, and mandatory funding to the Bureau of Reclamation for Indian Water Rights Settlements;
- **\$1 billion** for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to expand affordable housing, improve housing conditions and infrastructure, and increase economic opportunities for low-income families throughout Indian Country;
- **\$600 million** for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ReConnect program, which provides grants and loans to deploy broadband to unserved rural and tribal areas;
- **\$150 million** to electrify tribal homes and transition tribal colleges and universities to renewable energy;
- **\$122.5 million** for the Department of Justice to help address gender-based violence in Indian Country; and
- **\$77 million** for USDA tribal programs to increase equity and expand tribal self-governance.



Fawn Sharp
NCAI President

On April 5, 2022, NCAI President Fawn Sharp testified before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, urging Congress to work with the Budget Committee to account for mandatory obligations as mandatory spending. Further, she called for funding programs that help make Tribal Nations safer, more prosperous, and tap into their economic potential. She also asked Congress to empower Tribal Nations to address climate change and restore their homelands—including a request for funding to take land into trust and for the protection of, and tribal access to, Indigenous sacred sites.



Dante Desiderio
NCAI CEO

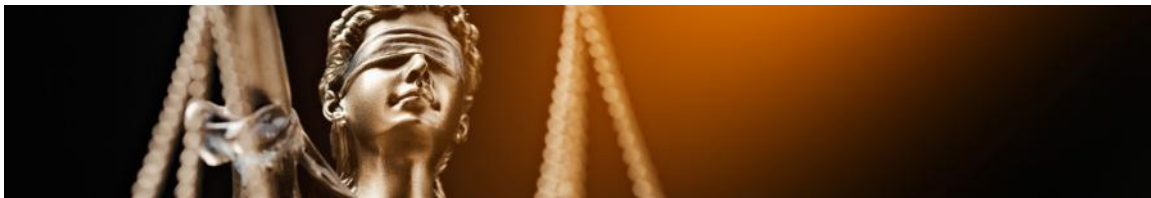
Also in April, NCAI Chief Executive Officer Dante Desiderio participated in a roundtable discussion with the U.S. House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth. The panelists underscored the need for creative solutions harnessing innovation and Tribal Nations' inherent sovereignty to unlock economic potential. Additionally, tribal leaders have identified dual taxation as a top priority in bringing jurisdictional parity to Indian Country through revenue that other American governments take for granted. The Select Committee's report of recommendations include a call for Congress to carry forward the policy solutions found in H.R. 4054, the Tribal Tax and Investment Reform Act of 2021, and to establish a Community Development Bank for Indian Country. Both the Administration and Congress have signaled that there is political will to combat this disparity with all tools available, and active engagement from Tribal Nations will be key to maintaining this momentum for progress.





Legal and Governance

Supporting tribal sovereignty through legal and governance policy and legal advocacy is essential to ensure that the trust and treaty responsibility and sovereign rights of Tribal Nations are secure. Such efforts help strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship with the federal government to improve the quality of life for Native communities and peoples, and includes work to support the legal rights of Tribal Nations and tribal citizens through policy development. Additionally, by working with partners like the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) on the Tribal Supreme Court Project and the Judicial Selection Project, as well as coordinating with Tribal Nations and tribal attorneys, NCAI, in conjunction with its partners, remains active in the legal and governance space.



Highlights since NCAI's 2021 Annual Convention include:

- **Brackeen v. Haaland:** On February 28, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in this case and will hear oral arguments no sooner than October 3, 2022. Brackeen was appealed by opponents of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) after the U.S. Fifth Circuit, on April 5, 2021, published a 325-page en banc decision upholding the majority of ICWA. The Protect ICWA Campaign consisting of NCAI, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, NARF, and the Association on American Indian Affairs are actively coordinating with Tribal Nations and allies on this case.
- **Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta:** On April 27, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta, which will decide whether a state has authority to prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes against Indians in Indian country. Castro-Huerta is a follow-up case from the Supreme Court's July 9, 2020 decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which determined that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's reservation in eastern Oklahoma was never disestablished by Congress. This ruling has been cited by many other Tribal Nations to reaffirm their own reservations and protect their treaty rights. NCAI submitted an amicus curiae brief arguing that expanding state criminal jurisdiction in Indian country would both ignore Congress' prior actions and undermine federal law and public safety. The Supreme Court's decision was not released at the time of printing, but is expected in mid-June.
- **Federal Judicial Nominations:** NCAI, in conjunction with NARF, have long called for the appointment of federal court judges who are tribal citizens and those who demonstrate an understanding of tribal sovereignty and federal Indian law. In furtherance of this goal, NCAI signed on to letters to support the Honorable Allie Greenleaf Maldonado's (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians) application to be a United States District Court judge, and Ms. Sunshine Sykes' (Navajo Nation) nomination to serve as a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Additionally, NCAI worked with NARF and Senator Alex Padilla to ensure that Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was asked about tribal sovereignty during her nomination hearings. NCAI and NARF supported her confirmation based on her qualifications, and noted that more progress must be made with diversifying representation on the federal bench as no Native person has ever been nominated to serve as a U.S. Circuit Court judge or U.S. Supreme Court justice.



VISIT THE NCAI MARKETPLACE!

Free and open to the public twice a year, the NCAI Marketplace provides the opportunity for a variety of booths ranging from Native artists, to federal job recruiters, and much more!

OPEN JUNE 15 & 16
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM





National Congress of American Indians

SOVEREIGNTY INSTITUTE

WHY THE SOVEREIGNTY INSTITUTE?

Why now?

NCAI supported tribal governments' right to self-rule since its establishment in 1944, and contributed to the defense against the numerous threats to their sovereign status that emerged in existing and proposed policies and laws. Collectively, these efforts reversed the course of termination, manifested the self-determination era, and continue to hold the U.S. government accountable for its federal trust responsibility to tribal governments.

For the past fifty years, tribal governments existed in this "era of self-determination," yet it has been largely determined and defined by federal agencies through grants, agreements, and limited economic incentives. Despite the limitations of a federally defined brand of self-determination and an inadequate federal approach to self-rule and economic independence, Indian Country not only survived, but can count the self-determination era as one of the most successful eras for tribal governments since the imposition of colonialism.

While tribal governments have managed to make this era of self-determination successful—especially in comparison to other eras—the successes do not mean it is satisfactory. Rather, it indicates that Tribal



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Nations are so resilient, resourceful, and determined that their collective efforts to uphold the right to self-rule transformed self-determination from an aspirational ideal to a concrete reality.

However, Indian Country is now in, or on the cusp of, a new era — one in which the groundwork of earned self-rule allows thinking beyond it to a future in which self-governance is rooted in tribal values, culture, and self-identified needs. The seeds of this new era are beginning to grow, but change is not guaranteed unless tribal governments take action now.

To be successful in this new era, tribal governments need to secure mandatory and adequate federal funding for essential programs and services. In turn, discretionary federal programs and services need to be more responsive, reliable, and supportive of tribally-driven needs. To achieve true tribal self-determination, the federal government should make every effort to provide incentives and funding for Tribal Nations to build sustainable economies.

NCAI is embracing this new era by creating the “Sovereignty Institute” to develop the tools, resources, training, and capacity building materials needed to ensure all tribal governments are able to determine a healthy and culturally vibrant future.

How do we start?

Announced in March 2022, the NCAI Sovereignty Institute incorporates both new and existing initiatives in civic engagement,

tribal programs, leadership development, and policy research. The Sovereignty Institute’s proposed purpose is to support Tribal Nations by listening to their voices and providing the responsive tools, resources, and knowledge required to pursue their fullest potential of tribal advancement, identity, and influence by exercising the inherent right to self-rule.

The Sovereignty Institute seeks to support Tribal Nations in strengthening their capacity for self-governance and promoting their communities’ wellbeing as they determine their own futures and protect their identities as culturally dynamic nations. The Sovereignty Institute strives to deeply understand the diverse needs in Indian Country in order to offer comprehensive support for





tribal development and advancement. To accomplish these goals, the Sovereignty Institute will be comprised of:

- The Civic Engagement Team, which advocates for changes in systems and policies by mobilizing and maximizing Native voices and building coalitions. This team seeks to grow and strengthen the pathways to leadership by ensuring prosperous futures for the generations that follow by promoting equitable learning environments;
- Tribal Programs that provide resources directly to Tribal Nations on critical topics such as food sovereignty, economic development, victim services, domestic and family violence prevention, and juvenile justice; and
- Leadership Development Programs, which will provide innovative executive education for tribal leaders; strategic communications training for those seeking to elevate the issues and voices of Indian Country; and youth programming to contribute to the growth of a new generation of leaders; and
- The Policy Research Team which leads, conducts, and translates high-quality policy research and data to improve outcomes for Indian Country.

How can you help?

The development of the Sovereignty Institute will be a continuing and evolving process in which we invite you to take part. During the 2022 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace, the Sovereignty Institute team is looking forward to hearing from you, and there will be multiple engagement opportunities designed to listen to your feedback and input. If you see a member of our team at the conference, please take a moment to share your hopes for the Sovereignty Institute with us.

We share our thoughts on the values and guiding principles that will potentially make up the direction and purpose of this new

entity at NCAI in the hopes that you will respond to them. We invite you to collaborate and converse with us as we move forward in defining this new and exciting endeavor.



Civic Engagement

Native Vote

The Native Vote Initiative coordinates and enhances American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) civic participation through the following strategic approaches: voter registration and Get-Out-The-Native-Vote efforts; election protection; public education; and data collection. The Native Vote initiative works to add value to the civic power of Indian Country, Tribal Nations, and individual AI/AN people through collaborative civic engagement projects.

Supporting tribal leaders, activists, volunteers, community organizations, intertribal groups, and AI/AN individuals is critical to ensuring that the power of the Native Vote is realized in the 2022 midterm elections and beyond. Tribal Nations and AI/AN people must make their voices heard by exercising their voting rights at the polls. Although challenges exist, NCAI is committed to creating and sustaining an empowered national AI/AN voter base.

According to Indian Country Today, of the 73 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian candidates running for state legislative office, 49 won or ran unopposed. These results reflect the increasing prominence of the Native Vote and Native civic engagement at large.





To do so, the NCAI Civic Engagement team will be traveling in partnership with the Native American Rights Fund and other grassroots coalitions to work alongside Tribal Nations and organizations in Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) programming and in technical assistance training throughout NCAI's 12 regions to prepare for the 2022 midterm elections.

During the 2020 General Election, Indian Country displayed its ability to engage in local and national voting. The NCAI Policy Research Center provided a final analysis on the impact of the Native Vote in the 2020 Election in its 2020 Native Vote Report, which illustrated how Native representation increased in Congress and state legislatures.

In preparation for the 2022 midterm elections, the NCAI Native Vote Initiative aims to provide state-by-state guidelines on registering to vote and casting a ballot for AI/ANs. The NCAI Policy Research Center analyzed and published data on the AI/AN voting age population in the 2020 Census and analyzed voter turnout and registration data in areas with high populations of AI/AN individuals. Historically, midterm elections have lower turnout than Presidential election years, and providing data and resources to AI/AN communities and Tribal Nations is

critical to ensuring that gains made in voter registration and turnout in 2020 are not lost in 2022. Updated resources are critical to successful participation of AI/AN voters in the 2022 election cycle and beyond.

Ending “Indian” Mascots

The Ending “Indian” Mascots initiative, in alignment with numerous historical and contemporary NCAI resolutions that condemn the usage of stereotypical and dehumanizing monikers, images, and fan behaviors, is committed to eliminating the harmful representation of Native peoples and promoting the inclusion of culturally responsive curricula in K-12 schools. In the absence of formal support from a Tribal Nation, the initiative supports the many allies, advocates, and communities working to rid institutions, educational or otherwise, of these damaging representations.

To advance this initiative, the NCAI Policy Research Center conducted a literature review of 20 years of research on the health impacts of Native “themed” mascots and found these team names, images, logos, and fan rituals are not just offensive, but also cause harm to AI/ANs and Tribal Nations. These findings were published in the American Indian and Alaska Native Mental

ENDING “INDIAN” MASCOTS

A GROWING NATIONAL MOVEMENT



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Health Research Journal in March 2022 and serve as the foundation for the initiative.

Due, in part, to the continued efforts of this initiative and allies across the country, progress has been made in ridding the country of harmful representations of Native people and in promoting welcoming and equitable learning environments for all students, athletes, and fans.

Progress

- **MLB's Cleveland "Guardians" began play in the team's inaugural season in April.**
- **NFL's Washington "Commanders" completed its first draft in April.**
- **Six states passed legislative bans of race-based mascots in public schools in recent years.**
- **Seven others took significant steps toward this end in 2022.**
- **Since October 2021, 14 high schools across the country retired their harmful Native "themed" mascots.**
- **Notably, the number of school districts employing the "R*dsk*ns" racial slur mascot has decreased to 39.**

OUR MASCOT IS INTENDED TO "HONOR" NATIVE AMERICANS. WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE THAT AWAY?

Despite even the best intentions, Native "themed" mascots are generally not understood as an honor in Tribal communities. In fact, many Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations have expressly challenged this idea. There are several other ways a community may honor an individual, a group, or a Tribal Nation.

WHY IS THIS A MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE?

As documented in a comprehensive review of decades of social science research, derogatory "Indian" sports mascots have serious psychological, social and cultural consequences for Native Americans; especially Native youth.

Change the Mascot!

VISIT [NCAI.ORG/PROUDTOBE](https://www.ncai.org/proudtobe)

Native "themed" team names, images, logos, and fan rituals are not just offensive, but also cause harm to AI/ANs and Tribal Nations.

– Watt, et al. (2022)

However, professional sports franchises in multiple leagues continue to profit off Native likenesses and stereotypical representations of tribal identities and cultures, while hundreds of high schools perpetuate these harms at the local level. Until the last harmful mascot is retired, this initiative will pursue an end to this affront through education and advocacy in honor of the brave tribal leaders that have spoken out for generations and in pursuit of a more just and equitable future for the generations to come.

American Community Survey

Many AI/AN communities have lower completion rates for the American Community Survey (ACS), resulting in reduced funding and representation. NCAI coalition members requested that successful Get Out the Count (GOTC) strategies be applied to the ACS annually to support Tribal Nations in understanding the basics of the survey, how the data can be used, how to judge the accuracy of ACS estimates, and how to access ACS data on the Census Bureau's website. In response, the NCAI Civic Engagement team developed resources on the ACS. The NCAI Policy Research Center conducted message testing on potential messages to encourage more AI/ANs to complete the ACS survey if they receive an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau. The NCAI Civic Engagement team is working on a communications plan to disseminate basic facts about the ACS through social media channels by developing graphics, messaging, and broadcast messages.

Redistricting

The NCAI Civic Engagement team partnered with the nine different national organizations that make up the Coalition Hub for Advancing Redistricting and Grassroots Engagement



(CHARGE) to expand outreach into Indian Country and support non-partisan redistricting efforts. NCAI is focused on creating redistricting resources for Tribal Nations and citizens for use in their education, outreach, and communication plans. The NCAI team also participated in a webinar series designed for both coalition members and tribal leaders, which provided information on the rules of redistricting, organizing a community of interest, preparing and delivering testimony in redistricting hearings, and continuing advocacy beyond legislative hearings including the map-drawing process.

As the NCAI Civic Engagement team's redistricting reform efforts continue in partnership with Tribal Nations and the CHARGE Hub, we will be launching a score report card designed for individuals and Tribal Nations to fill out and provide feedback on how to improve participation throughout the redistricting process.

Tribal Programs

Tribal Victim Services

Established in 2020, NCAI's Tribal Victim Assistance program awards micro-grants to Tribal Nations to create and expand their capacity for victim services. The funds are used to help raise awareness about resources and assistance available to victims, and to fund direct services that address the unique needs of crime victims. Tribal Nations can also use funds to build and strengthen mental health personnel or services, supply transportation for victims to access aid and shelter, hold training on victims' rights, and provide other culturally appropriate services.

More than \$11.3 million of funding is allocated to the program through the 2019 Congressional Crime Victims Fund. With this award, 2,533 victims have received services in their local communities, 100% of whom are tribally enrolled members of the community. A total of 56 grantees received micro-grants. The funds support the creation of 45 positions devoted to victim-services.



Food Sovereignty

NCAI's Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative (TFSAI) supports the development and strengthening of Tribal Nations' efforts to build and protect the Indigenous food systems that have long sustained their citizens, communities, and cultures.

In January 2020, TFSAI received grant funding from Walmart's National Giving Program to build a Tribal Food Sovereignty Innovations Lab. This Lab, or Resource Center, will be an interactive, community-based, online resource for Tribal Nations, practitioners, and individual food producers to learn how to develop, sustain, and expand their food sovereignty initiatives. The Resource Center will help practitioners gather information about the diverse food projects happening across Indian Country and will support them in implementing food sovereignty initiatives in their own communities.

The TFSAI team consulted with 35 reviewers from around Indian Country to ensure that the Resource Center aligns with the needs of Indian Country and food sovereignty practitioners. These reviewers included experts from partner organizations such as Intertribal Agriculture Council, Tribal Nation food sovereignty initiative directors, tribal leaders, and academics.

The Resource Center will be available to the public soon.



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Juvenile Justice

In the coming year, the NCAI Sovereignty Institute anticipates releasing three case studies focused on tribal approaches to juvenile justice issues. Each case study includes the following content:

- a detailed description of one Tribal Nation's innovative approach and programming aimed at reducing AI/AN tribal youth involvement in, and recovery from, the justice system;
- interviews with practitioners working in the Tribal Nation's juvenile justice system; and
- points of contact from each Tribal Nation case study for tribal leaders to learn more about the approach.

These case studies highlight promising tribal juvenile delinquency prevention and culturally based restorative justice practices. This research will provide tribal leaders with examples of innovative programs used in other tribal communities from which they can draw and adapt to their own needs.

More information will be available soon.

NCAI Youth Initiatives

NCAI's youth initiatives seek to holistically nurture the future leaders of Indian Country by providing responsive resources and programs for their mental, physical, and intellectual wellbeing. NCAI's youth leadership development programs provide opportunities to strengthen the voices of young leaders to create a foundation of policy education through actions in advocacy.

In a historic first, the NCAI Youth Commission leaders delivered a speech at NCAI's 2022 State of Indian Nations Address. As a result of this strong presentation, the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the Executive Office of the President of the United States is seeking continued collaboration with the Youth Commission, particularly in the

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the On the T.R.A.I.L. Diabetes Prevention program was offered at 98 Native Boys & Girls Club sites, serving 1,569 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth. Club sites offered an average of 77 minutes of daily physical activity to both T.R.A.I.L. program participants and Club members on days when the Clubs were open.

area of "Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge."

In preparation for the 2022 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace, Youth Commission members have developed youth-specific programming to provide a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for youth attendees.

After many successes, the terms of multiple youth commission members are coming to an end. At the 2022 Annual Convention in Sacramento, current Youth Commission members will complete and honor their service through a Land Acknowledgement Service to Community, with the hope that the project will continue beyond their tenure. There also will be opportunities for new future leaders to join the Youth Commission and to get involved. Youth Commission elections will be held at the 2022 Annual Convention for any interested and eligible youth who wish to participate.

The NCAI Wilma Mankiller Fellowship Program is a unique opportunity for youth to work closely with tribal and national leaders. The 2022-2023 cohort will experience a redesigned fellowship that will allow fellows to experience multiple components of the organization. NCAI has invited two highly qualified incoming fellows to join the team in July 2022.

NCAI, for its 19th year, continues the impactful Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life (T.R.A.I.L.) program by providing diabetes prevention curriculum to 89 Boys and Girls Clubs. The initiative, which adopted a hybrid approach due to COVID-19, has helped strengthen youth programming across





Indian Country during the pandemic and has facilitated the opening of four new clubs. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the “On the T.R.A.I.L. Diabetes Prevention” program was offered at 98 Native Boys & Girls Club sites, serving 1,569 AI/AN youth. Sites offered an average of 77 minutes of daily physical activity to both T.R.A.I.L. participants and Club members on days when the Clubs were open.

The Movement as Medicine program, funded by the Nike N7 initiative, provided a holistic program supporting Native youth in building healthy routines for physical activities and mental health support. The program partnered with Indigineous Lotus, Native Health Initiative, and We R Native and has served participants from 22 states—representing 48 Tribal Nations—to date.

ITWG/Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ) Grant

NCAI’s Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ) grant assists Tribal Nations implementing jurisdiction under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2013. VAWA 2013 affirmed inherent tribal authority to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit domestic violence, dating violence, or violate protection orders in Indian country. The grant funds training and technical assistance through webinars, code reviews, publications, recurring meetings, and the Inter-Tribal Working Group. The Inter-Tribal Working Group (ITWG) convenes twice per year and provides a forum for the direct delivery of training and technical assistance,



as well as the opportunity for Tribal Nations to share their advice and experiences relating to SDVCJ. Over 100 Tribal Nations participate in ITWG.

Leadership Development

NCAI’s Leadership Development initiative seeks to strengthen the leadership capacity and potential of tribal leaders. NCAI will soon be announcing two new, interconnected initiatives to support tribal leaders in developing strategic approaches to their leadership roles and media relations. Our hope is that a robust, rigorous, and thorough suite of collaborative trainings will elevate the needs, successes, and priorities of Indian Country by contributing to the growing number of highly-skilled tribal leaders. The NCAI Leadership Development team aims to respond to the needs of tribal leaders by providing targeted trainings aligned with their priorities. Consider sharing your professional development goals with us so that we can help you reach them.





A Strategic New Direction for the NCAI Policy Research Center

The NCAI Policy Research Center is changing along with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). The recent focus on the reorganization of NCAI created a great new opportunity to rethink the mission and role of the NCAI Policy Research Center as it approaches its 20-year anniversary. The NCAI Policy Research Center was established in 2003 as a national tribal research and policy center focused on issues facing tribal communities. The NCAI Policy Research Center was initially envisioned as an independent research center within NCAI with its own Advisory Board. The NCAI Policy Research Center also hosted the Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum at the NCAI Mid Year Conference as a forum for tribal leaders and researchers to discuss policy research and data topics in a variety of session formats. The NCAI Policy Research is proud of its research and data work to inform policy over the years but recognized the opportunity to reinvent itself with NCAI's new reorganization efforts.

The NCAI Policy Research Center is committed to conducting quality research and data not only inform NCAI policy priorities and align with the needs of Tribal Nations, but also to help improve outcomes for Indian Country. This approach requires more integration into the overall work of NCAI while still conducting high quality policy research. This new approach also requires a new strategy for funding that could rely on more general operating support and partnership work rather than restrictive multi-year grants that do not necessarily allow focus on the fast-paced and changing policy work at NCAI.

The NCAI Policy Research Center's strategic planning during the past year resulted in a new mission: lead, conduct, and translate high quality policy research and data to improve outcomes for Indian Country. The NCAI Policy Research Center also changed the priority of its customer focus to better support Tribal Nations, tribal leaders, and tribal staff, with less of an emphasis on developing academic researchers and students, since many other entities now do that work in comparison to the lack of this type of support 20 years ago. These changes will result in better integration and access to research during NCAI events and will lead to the development of new research-focused events and activities.

The initial objectives of the new NCAI Policy Research Center involve better integration of research and data into the policy priority work of NCAI, and as supported by tribal leadership, will include more work supporting tribal governance of research. In 2022, the NCAI Policy Research Center joins the new NCAI Sovereignty Institute to also develop research-related resources and tools to support the sovereignty of Tribal Nations as they are Thinking Beyond Self Determination. The NCAI Policy Research Center welcomes your feedback and ideas as we move forward, and you can provide that input at research@ncai.org.





NCAI Policy Research Center Update

The NCAI Policy Research Center continued to focus on research and data work to inform policies and actions to positively impact outcomes in Indian Country and conducted strategic planning as a part of NCAI's reorganization efforts. The NCAI Policy Research Center is proud to join the new NCAI Sovereignty Institute and discusses its new plans for research and data work in the commentary below. This section first provides an update on recent accomplishments.

Census Data

The NCAI Policy Research Center continued to lead on reviewing the quality and accuracy of 2020 Census data through meetings with the U.S. Census Bureau, analysis of data releases, and partnerships with various stakeholders. The NCAI Policy Research Center moved quickly with a press release to inform Indian Country of the results of U.S. Census' Post Enumeration Survey (PES) that found a persistent undercount — 5.6 percent — for AI/ANs living on reservations in the 2020 Census. NCAI President Fawn Sharp and a call for immediate tribal consultation with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure these persistent undercounts do not occur again in the future.

The NCAI Policy Research Center also highlighted the importance of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) in funding formulas for AI/ANs, published an overview of the ACS to help educate tribal leaders, and conducted message testing to help develop materials to encourage AI/ANs to complete the ACS when it arrives in their mailbox or someone shows up at the door.

NCAI has written letters to the U.S. Census

Bureau to urge them to ensure that the 2020 Data products are as accurate and accessible as possible to ensure Tribal Nations have the data they need to ensure a fair allocation of resources to their communities.

Native Vote Data

The NCAI Policy Research Center continued to contribute to NCAI's Native Vote initiative through data and research. For the 2022 midterm cycle, the Policy Research Center developed a Native Vote update on the 2020 Census AI/AN Voting Age population that can be used by Tribal Nations on their Get Out the Vote strategic plans for the November 2022 midterm elections and a new Native Vote Report on turnout and registration in voting districts on tribal lands and for majority-minority AI/AN voting districts. Finally, the Policy Research Center worked with NCAI's communications department to develop a series of updated and new infographic pamphlets on AI/AN voting and turnout data and on AI/AN elected officials.

Tribal Research Governance

The NCAI Policy Research Center released





a Frequently Asked Questions document on how to work with Tribal Nations on research to help with all the inquiries it gets on this topic. The NCAI Policy Research Center also conducted its Holding Space: A Guide for Tribal Partners in Research training at the 2021 NCAI Annual Convention and recently for a class of students interested in community-based research at Harvard Medical School. The NCAI Policy Research Center is also completing an online/virtual update to its Research that Benefits Native People curriculum for college students that provides a basic overview of conducting research with Tribal Nations and the foundations of sovereignty in research partnerships.

The Health Impacts of Native-themed Mascots

The NCAI Policy Research Center completed and published the most comprehensive review to date of research on the health impacts of Native-themed Mascots and described how these impacts continue to promote health disparities in AI/AN communities. That research review was recently published in the American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research journal in March 2022. This data and research helps inform efforts at the local level to retire and replace harmful Native-themed mascots.

Environmental Sustainability Research

The NCAI Policy Research Center partners with the NCAI Environmental Sustainability team on research and data about the impacts of climate change on tribal communities. The team held a webinar on the impacts of

Permafrost in Alaska in February 2020 and published an overview of the 2021 IPCC Sixth Assessment Report that highlighted the latest data on climate change that revealed the urgency of action.

Other Research Updates

- The NCAI Policy Research Center continues to track COVID-19 data and watch trends to inform Tribal Nations about any new increases in cases or impacts. The NCAI COVID-19 Data Situation Summary is published weekly and posted on the NCAI Policy Research Center Publications Page.
- An update to the First Kids 1st Data Resource Book from 2019 will be published soon with the latest data on indicators of whether Native youth are thriving in four areas: healthy lifestyle; successful students; supportive environments; and vibrant communities.
- The NCAI Policy Research Center recently updated its Guide to Juvenile Justice Data webpage with links to available data sources on AI/AN youth in the juvenile justice system.
- The NCAI Policy Research Center thanks the Washington University at St. Louis Center for Diabetes Translation for their partnership over the last 11 years, and as a final outcome, published a review of diabetes prevention efforts in AI/AN communities that focused on outcomes from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians as an example for other communities.



THE FUTURE LEADERS OF INDIAN COUNTRY.



National Congress of American Indians
YOUTH COMMISSION

JOIN US!

DIRECTED BY LISA VANDEVEER
LVANDEVEER@NCAI.ORG



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Helen J. Simeonoff, Sugpiaq (Alutiiq)

Oct. 23, 1941 - Jan. 8, 2011

This year, NCAI is honoring the late Helen J. Simeonoff of Kodiak, Alaska, as the 2022 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace Featured Artist.

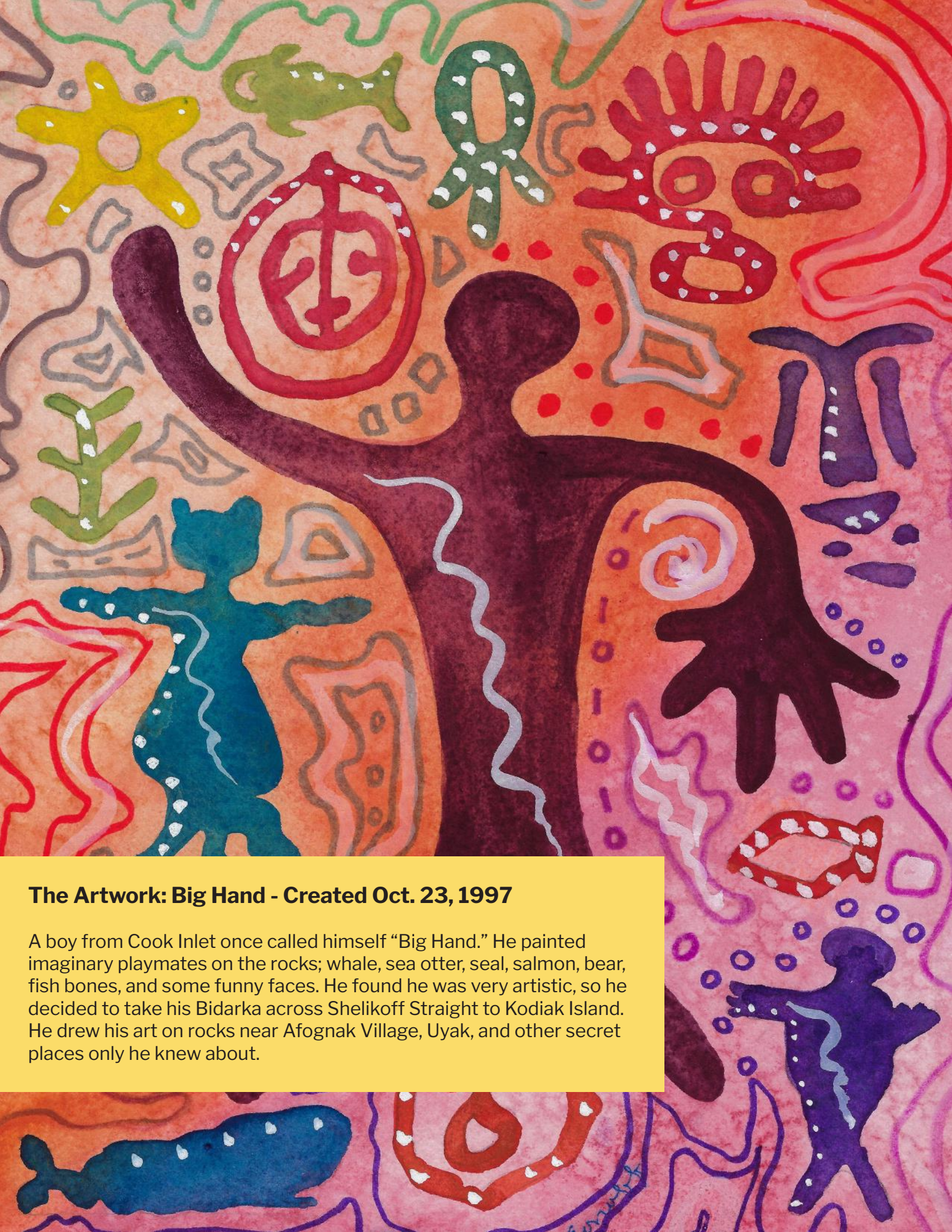
Helen J. Simeonoff was born to William Simeonoff Jr. and Alexandra Knagin (Knagg) in Kodiak, Alaska in 1941. Known for her brilliant watercolors, she often incorporated her bright, colorful, whimsical, and playful Sugpiaq cultural symbols into her artwork.

Helen painted a wide variety of subject matter, including many Alaska Natives, Alaskan Historical Masks, Russian Orthodox Churches of Alaska, puffins, ravens, bears, and wolves.

Helen's daughter and current art administrator, Sharon Luther-Tylla, described her mother as "colorful as her art." See Helen's Facebook page to view more of her creations.

 helensimeonoffakartist@gmail.com

 [@AlaskaKodiakWatercolors](https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaKodiakWatercolors)



The Artwork: Big Hand - Created Oct. 23, 1997

A boy from Cook Inlet once called himself “Big Hand.” He painted imaginary playmates on the rocks; whale, sea otter, seal, salmon, bear, fish bones, and some funny faces. He found he was very artistic, so he decided to take his Bidarka across Shelikoff Straight to Kodiak Island. He drew his art on rocks near Afognak Village, Uyak, and other secret places only he knew about.

CONGRESSMAN DON YOUNG

AN INDIAN COUNTRY ADVOCATE.

JUNE 9, 1933 - MARCH 18, 2022

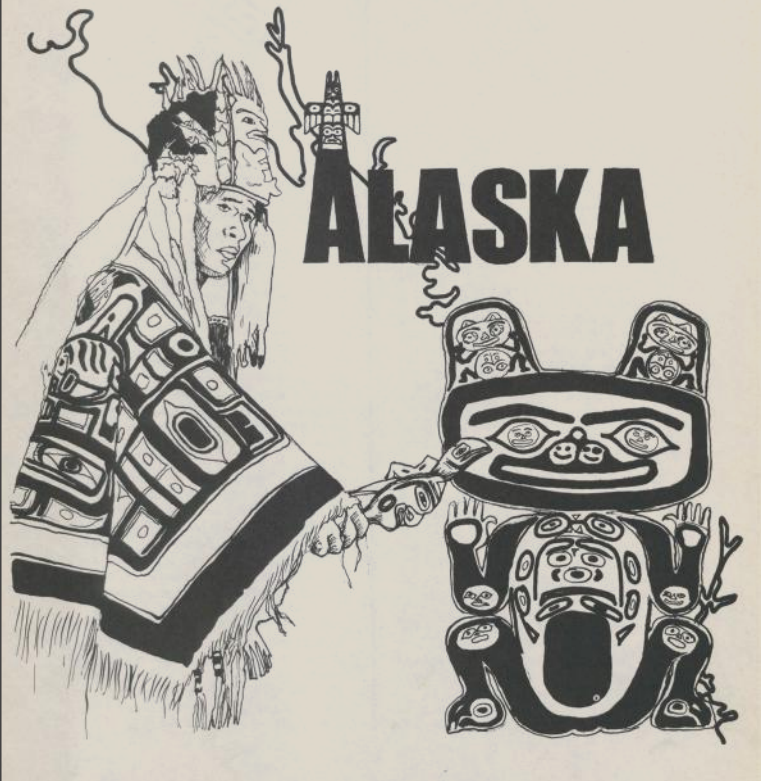




NCAI AND ALASKA NATIVES: A PARTNERSHIP SINCE 1944

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) recently began efforts to digitize its archival records and enhance access to its historical materials and now has the opportunity to share these treasures with wider audiences. These records reveal that from its very inception in 1944, NCAI's advocacy has extended beyond the Lower 48 states to address issues affecting Alaska Natives. Early resolutions in the archives are strong and direct in action despite being brief in length and demonstrate NCAI's ongoing commitment to Alaska Native issues.

At the NCAI Constitutional Convention held in Denver, Colorado in 1944, the organization's inaugural gathering, delegates voted for and adopted 18 initial resolutions. NCAI Resolution Number 15 specifically addressed supporting the rights of Alaska Natives. It detailed NCAI's commitment to aid and support the "Alaska Native Brotherhood...in any program it might adopt for the protection of rights of Alaska Natives and the development of their welfare."





Just three years later, NCAI furthered its collaboration with the organization, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, to protect the fishing and timber rights of Alaska Natives. At the 4th Annual NCAI Convention held in 1947 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, delegates officially recorded opposition to the Tongass Timber Bill pending in Congress. This legislation would legalize the federal government's practice of exploiting Alaska Natives' land for corporate interests. A more general resolution adopted at that Convention expressly stated that NCAI would "give special study to the problems of the Indians of Alaska and aid them in establishing possessory rights to their lands." In calling for this increased focus, NCAI leaders wrote a simple but moving statement below this resolution: "There is much work ahead. The federal government has failed time and again in its dealings with them."

Further exploration in NCAI's archives found additional resolutions in the late 1940s that call for Congress to prohibit industry (such as canning, packing, timber and fishing) from conducting practices that unjustly used Native land for economic gain.

Alaska Statehood dominated NCAI resolutions beginning in the 1950s. At the start of the decade, NCAI delegates adopted a resolution that urged the defeat of the pending statehood bill unless the clause forbidding the creation of reservations was removed. It further urged the Secretary of the Interior to designate reservations for all Indian communities.

Four years later in 1954 at the 11th Annual NCAI Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska, a more complex resolution outlined NCAI's position on the recent bill to grant statehood to the Territory of Alaska. It explicitly stated opposition to any statehood legislation unless it secured the rights of Alaska Natives, "to the land and water they had used and occupied since time immemorial." NCAI further pledged in this resolution support to assist Alaska Natives towards securing these rights.

"to the land and water they had used and occupied since time immemorial."

11th Annual NCAI Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska, a more complex resolution outlined NCAI's position on the recent bill to grant statehood to the Territory of Alaska.

In 1968, at the NCAI 25th Annual Convention held in Omaha, delegates deliberated and adopted a resolution calling upon the U.S. Congress to address for once and for all the Alaska land settlement issue. Delegates charged that federal agencies had dispossessed Native people by usurping their lands without consent, approval, or compensation. This resolution put NCAI on record in advocating for passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act that was later signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon in 1971.

Resolutions in the early history of NCAI were striking in their simplicity and were often just a few sentences in length. As the decades progressed, however, NCAI positions on Alaska Native issues evolved in their variety, complexity and style. Although this overview is far from comprehensive, these newly accessible archival records provide a glimpse into the long history of collaboration and advocacy between NCAI and Alaska Natives. As NCAI continues its comprehensive digitization of the NCAI archives, a more complete picture of the relationship will continue to emerge.

For more information about historical resources in NCAI's Archives, please contact

Suzanne Gould, NCAI Archival Specialist at sgould@ncai.org



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NCAI's First Convention in Alaska

In October 1970, over 1,000 delegates attended the 27th Annual NCAI Convention held in Anchorage, Alaska. At the time, it was reported to be the largest convention gathering ever held in the state. It was also the first time that NCAI held its convention in Alaska! The theme for the meeting was "American Indians: Together for the Future." The meeting was purposefully scheduled the week immediately after the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, which allowed attendees to attend both meetings as a two-week event.

The NCAI Convention in Alaska began on October 18, 1970. After welcome addresses by the Governor of Alaska and the Mayor of Anchorage, delegates immediately got to work. NCAI President Earl Old Person (Blackfeet) opened the convention with a speech calling for unity in the spirit of the NCAI founders.

Convention business that year focused largely on the Alaska Native land claims settlement issue, which had been a central focus of NCAI advocacy for several years. NCAI leaders were keenly aware of the precedent this legislation would set not only for Alaska, but for all Tribal Nations. Discussions on this issue dominated a good portion of Convention business that year.

Other issues discussed in Anchorage during the weeklong gathering included: federal Indian policy; law enforcement on reservations; the civil rights movement; and water rights, namely those affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada. A youth panel comprised of students also gathered to discuss Indian education and reforms for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Although the agenda was jam-packed, it was hardly all work and no play. When business adjourned each day, convention attendees participated in a full-dress parade through the streets of Anchorage, an Olympic sports match, a traditional dance competition, and a potlatch feast of Alaska Native foods! NCAI again chose Anchorage as its convention destination in 1981 and in subsequent years as a tradition it has maintained ever since.

NCAI OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Earl Old Person (Blackfeet)
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: John Ravel (Taco Pueblo)
 TREASURER: Dorothy Davis (Sackett House)
 RECORDING SECRETARY: Peggy Ayres (San Joaquin)
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Bruce A. Niska (Makah)

1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE N.W. SUITE 312 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004 202-223-8950

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN AREA: Alana Graydon, Sandra Rock, Sioux
 ALASKA AREA: Don Wright, Alphonse
 ANADARKO AREA: James Cox, Comanche
 BILLINGS AREA: Margie Johnson, Kiowa
 GALLUP AREA: Joe Harris, Cochiti Pueblo
 MINNEAPOLIS AREA: Loretta V. Eick, Ojibwa
 MUSKOGEE AREA: Rose Doubledent, Cherokee
 PHOENIX AREA: Valencia Murdock, Navajo
 PORTLAND AREA: Walter Skottler, Nez Perce
 SACRAMENTO AREA: Eric Forrest, Fort River

MILES BRANDON
PARADE MARSHALL

DON WRIGHT
CONVENTION COORDINATOR

HONORED GUEST
BENNY BENSON
 Designer of the Alaska Flag

FULL DRESS PARADE
 BEST TRIBAL GROUP \$500
 BEST TRADITIONALLY DRESSED INDIVIDUAL \$200
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
 FRIDAY, OCT. 23rd
 NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS DANCE CONTEST
 ESKIMO ALUT
 ALASKA NATIVE
 8:00 P.M. Anchorage Sports Arena
 A traditional dance competition of representative tribes and individuals from all parts of the continental U.S. and Alaska. Cash prizes will be awarded.
 BEST DANCE GROUP \$500.00 and Trophy
 BEST INDIVIDUAL DANCER \$250.00 and Trophy
 Followed by a traditional Potlatch
 Advance Ticket Admission Only
 Adults: \$10
 Under 12: \$2.00
 HOST TRIBE
 COOK INLET NATIVE ASSOCIATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
 SATURDAY, OCT. 24th
 AWARDS NIGHT
 8:00 P.M. Anchorage Sports Arena
 QUEEN FINALISTS
 OLYMPIC FINALISTS
 DANCE GROUP FINALISTS
 INDIVIDUAL DANCER FINALIST
 DRAWING FOR TWO FUR PARKAS
 "Inner" valued at \$500.00 and "Outer" valued at \$100.00
 Prizes Courtesy of David Green
 Followed by a traditional Potlatch
 Advance Ticket Admission Only
 Adults: \$10
 Under 12: \$2.00
 All prospective contestants for all events should write for application and pre-registration
 National Congress of American Indians
 1104 Southwestern Drive
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
 ADVANCE ALL EVENT TICKET BOOKS \$20.00
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: National Congress of American Indians
 1104 Southwestern Drive
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503

1970 CONVENTION
 NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA



ELIZABETH PERATROVICH (1911 – 1958), TLINGIT NATION

Elizabeth Peratrovich (1911 – 1958) was a member of the Tlingit Nation and an activist who dedicated her career to advocating for the civil rights of Alaska Natives. She is credited with the passage of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, which made Alaska the first territory or state to enact legislation aimed at prohibiting racial discrimination in public accommodations and spaces. Along with her husband, Roy Peratrovich, the couple drafted the bill's language and testified before the Alaska State Senate to secure its passage.

NCAI is proud to claim Elizabeth Peratrovich as an active member. In addition to serving as President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, she also devoted her time to the NCAI Committee that revised the original NCAI

Constitution in 1955. Peratrovich and others adjusted the governing document to fit the needs of the growing organization and to reflect the 48 states and Alaska. When she attended the 12th NCAI Annual Convention Spokane, Washington, delegates elected her to the NCAI Executive Council for a 3-year term as a Field Representative for Alaska.

Elizabeth Peratrovich passed away in 1958, but only in recent years she has received long deserved recognition for her contributions and accomplishments. In 1988, Alaska's Governor officially marked April 21 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. This day was later changing to February 16, the day on which the Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act was passed. More recently in 2020, the U.S. Mint appropriately commemorated Peratrovich's life with a \$1 gold coin. The U.S. Mint consulted with NCAI on this project, and finally, the country gave long overdue credit to this remarkable Alaska Native woman.



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DON WRIGHT (1929 – 2014), Gwich'in

NCAI member Don Wright (1929 – 2014) was active in NCAI and other advocacy organizations in the height of the movement to secure land for Alaska Natives in the 1960s and 1970s. Widely considered a leading figure in the land claims settlement movement, he helped organize the Alaska Federation of Natives in the 1960s and later served as its President from 1970 – 1972.

Wright was a member of the NCAI Executive Committee and held the position of NCAI Alaska Area Vice President. He also organized the NCAI 27th Annual Convention held in Anchorage, Alaska in 1970 that brought delegates and attendees to Anchorage, Alaska for a weeklong event that largely focused on discussing and securing support for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.



Don Wright
Alaska Area Vice-President

Koniag and Calista are honored to host
Elders Concierge Services



Koniag



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www.calistacorp.com

Wright drafted the language of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act and travelled to Washington, D.C. to give testimony at its hearings on Capitol Hill. In the Summer of 1969 in an issue of the NCAI Sentinel largely devoted largely to Alaska Native issues, Wright penned an article on land claims in which he called the issue “the right to self-respect, self-determination and freedom and management.” He demanded “a fair, just, and equitable settlement, based on aboriginal use and occupation since time immemorial.” The Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act was signed into law in 1971. Wright remained active in Alaska political life throughout the remainder of his life.



NCAI COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

In 2022, NCAI has continued to grow its presence in a still largely-virtual environment. Through social media campaigns, conference production, media interviews, and more, NCAI has continued to provide the public, media, and policymakers with the most up-to-date information on issues affecting Indian Country. This year, NCAI hosted the 2022 Executive Council Winter Session, the 2022 State of Indian Nations Address, and the VAWA Tribal Leader Town Hall in professionally-produced virtual environments, giving Indian Country events the prestige they deserve.

Social Media

Social media has been a connecting thread in our digital world to share news, events, and culture and NCAI has continued to expand its presence on a variety of platforms. In the past several months, NCAI has managed to grow its number of followers while elevating issues that matter most to Indian Country.

ANALYTICS

	84K FOLLOWERS
	11.8K FOLLOWERS
	63.6K FOLLOWERS
	14.5K FOLLOWERS

MMIW Campaign

NCAI joined forces with the National Indian Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) during the National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) to help raise awareness for this critical issue. The week's highlights included the



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national #WearRedDay and a Presidential Proclamation declaring May 5, 2022, as Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day.

As a result of the collaborative social media campaigns, MMIW National Week of Action reached nearly 23 million people worldwide.

2022 Executive Council Winter Session and State of Indian Nations Address

On February 14, 2022, NCAI convened Tribal Nations across the United States for the 2022 State of Indian Nations (SOIN) Address and its legislative conference—the 2022 Executive Council Winter Session. With a newly condensed virtual format, tribal delegates were able to hear members of Congress and individuals from the Biden-Harris Administration outline their priorities and strategies for tackling key challenges facing tribal communities. For the first time in NCAI history, registration to attend the virtual conference was free with the intent of providing an inclusive dialogue for all tribal governments and citizens across Indian Country.

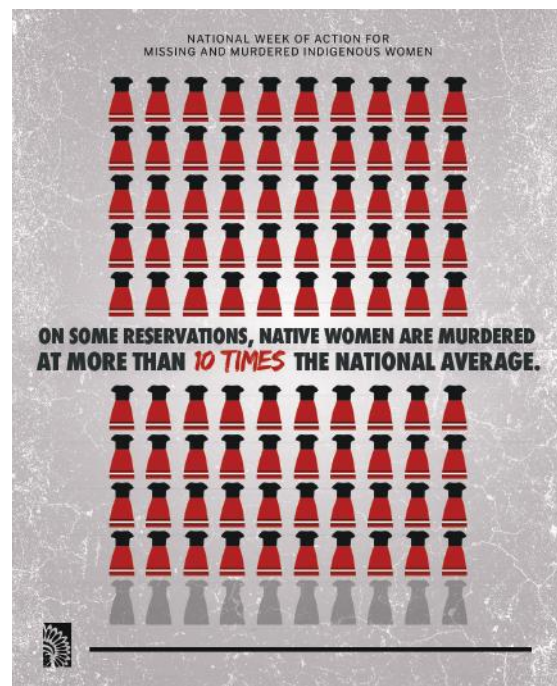
During SOIN, the audience heard NCAI President Fawn Sharp outline Indian Country's priorities which was followed by a Congressional response delivered by Representative Sharice Davids. The NCAI Youth Commission also made its event debut and provided a powerful State of Native Youth Address.

Violence Against Women Act Tribal Leader Town Hall

On March 22, 2022, NCAI hosted a virtual tribal leader town hall on the 2022 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA, which passed the Senate on March 10, 2022, included historic provisions that significantly increased resources for Tribal Nations to exercise restored jurisdiction, and strengthened tribal sovereignty and safety across Indian Country.



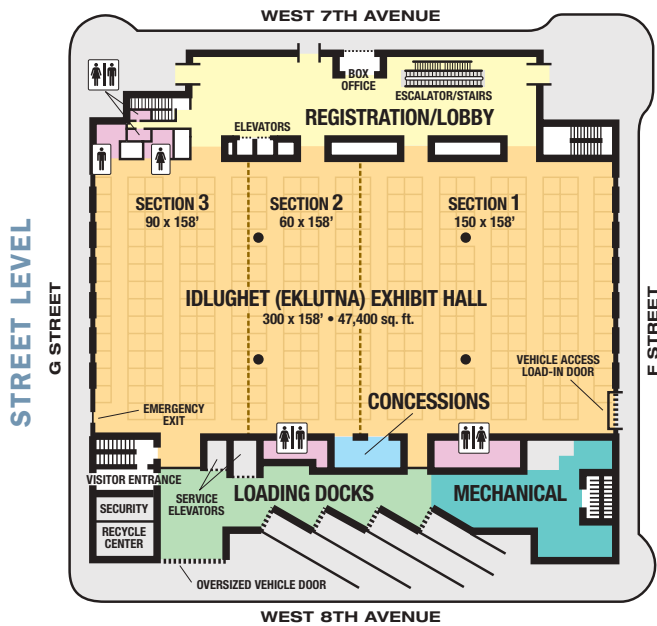
During the town hall, NCAI leadership, tribal leaders, U.S. Senators, and special guests celebrated the historic wins for Indian Country, walked through the VAWA 2022 tribal provisions, shared VAWA resources for Tribal Nations, and highlighted the next steps for Indian Country.





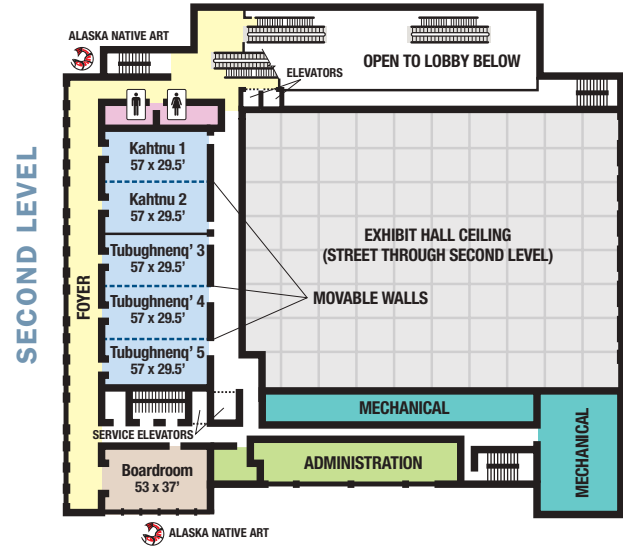
ANCHORAGE CONVENTION CENTERS

EXHIBIT HALL STREET LEVEL IDLUGHET (EKLUTNA)

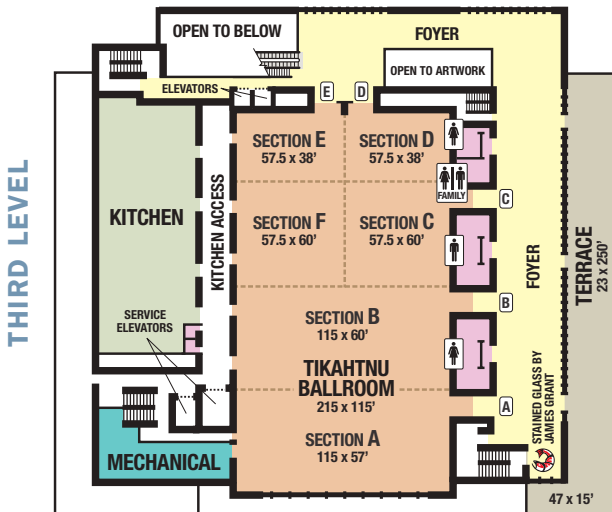


MEETING ROOMS SECOND LEVEL

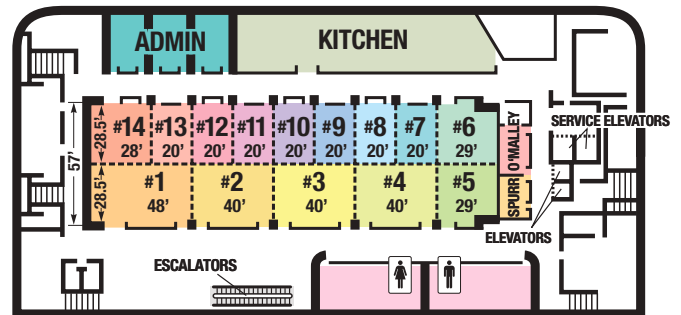
K'ENAKATNU (KNIK) EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
KAHTNU (KENAI) ROOMS 1 & 2 • TUBUGHNENQ' (TYONEK) ROOMS 3, 4 & 5



BALLROOM THIRD LEVEL TIKAHTNU (COOK INLET) BALLROOM



SUMMIT HALL LOWER LEVEL



Convention Center Key

Hall 1/2 - General Assembly
Hall 3 - Marketplace
First Floor Lobby - Dena'ina Center - Registration
Kahtnu 1 - Resolutions
Kahtnu 2 - Tribal Elder Lounge
Tikahtnu Ballroom A - NCAI Youth Commission

Tubughnenq 3 - Breakouts
Tubughnenq 4 - Breakouts
Tubughnenq 5 - Breakouts
Tikahtnu Ballroom C - Breakouts
Tikahtnu Ballroom D - Breakouts
Tikahtnu Ballroom E - Breakouts
Egan Center: Hall 1 - Breakouts
Egan Center: Hall 2 - Breakouts
Egan Center: Hall 5 - Breakouts
Egan Center: Hall 4 - Breakouts



National
Congress of
American
Indians



The Resolutions Process

Resolutions Due: 3 Weeks Before Conference

Only individual Indian members in good standing are authorized to submit a resolution. Good standing includes: membership dues are paid and current. Submit resolutions via the online form.

Resolutions Committee Review: 1 Week after Submission Deadline

The NCAI Resolutions Committee consists of Tribal Volunteer Co-Chairs and Executive Board Liaisons. The committee will review submitted resolutions and develop recommendations.

Submitted Resolutions Posted to NCAI Website

Submitted resolutions and recommendations will be posted to the NCAI website one week before the conference begins for sponsors and attendees to review. A broadcast will be sent to NCAI members when the documents are posted online.

Resolutions Sent to Committee/Subcommittee Chairs

At the time that the resolutions and recommendations are posted online, notice will be sent to committee and subcommittee co-chairs to review resolutions assigned to their committees.

Attend Committees and Subcommittees

Attend the NCAI Committees/Subcommittees to address concerns about your resolution raised by committee members. Check the agenda for committee meeting times and locations.

Resolutions Committee



Final Action Taken on Resolutions: Last Day of Plenary Session

Committee co-chairs present committee reports on the action taken on resolutions considered by their committee during the last plenary session. Resolutions may be pulled from the committee reports to be considered individually by the membership. The committee report is adopted or tabled by the body under a consent agenda.





Future Dates

79th Annual Convention

October 30, 2022 - November 4, 2022

Sacramento, California

SONOSKY

L A W O F F I C E S

Sonosky Law Offices welcomes
NCAI to Alaska.

Congratulations on VAWA22

**SONOSKY, CHAMBERS, SACHSE,
MILLER & MUNSON, LLP**

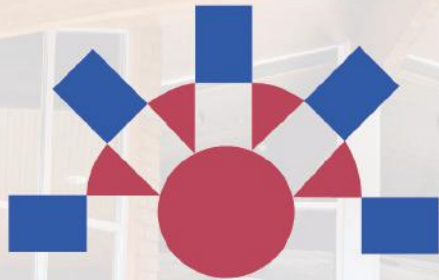
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CHIN'AN GU NINYU

(THANK YOU, YOU CAME HERE IN DENA'INA ATHABASCAN)



ALASKA
NATIVE
HERITAGE
CENTER

On behalf of the Alaska Native Heritage Center
board and staff, we welcome Tribal Leaders to the
2022 NCAI Mid-Year Conference!



LEARN MORE: WWW.ALASKANATIVE.NET

907-330-8000

8800 HERITAGE CENTER DRIVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99504



Celebrating community spirit

Friends, family, neighbors, and local business owners are the backbone of this community. Our vibrant spirit comes alive at events like these.

It's an honor to be a part of the NCAI mid-year conference.

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