

Tribes of Wisconsin



Prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration
Division of Intergovernmental Relations
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DIVISION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS INITIATIVE

MISSION

The Division of Intergovernmental Relations, State-Tribal Relations Initiative within the Department of Administration recognizes the sovereignty of the Wisconsin Tribes and affirms the government to government relationship and principles identified in Executive Order #39. This Division will ensure that all cabinet agencies adhere to the fundamental principles of the Order and act as a facilitator between state government and the Tribes of Wisconsin.

Contacts:

Wisconsin Department of Administration
Division of Intergovernmental Relations
101 East Wilson St., 2nd Floor
PO Box 8944
Madison WI 53708-8944

<http://witribes.wi.gov>

Dawn Vick, Administrator

(608) 266-7043, dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov

Fax

(608) 267-6917



EXECUTIVE ORDER # 39

**Relating to an Affirmation of the Government-to-Government
Relationship Between the State of Wisconsin and
Indian Tribal Governments Located Within the State of Wisconsin**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a unique legal relationship with Indian Tribes, as affirmed and set forth in state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, within Wisconsin there are 11 federally recognized Tribes with elected or appointed Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, a sovereign state within the United States, recognizes the unique status of Indian Tribes and their right to existence, self-government, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, state regulations and other policy statements or actions have an impact on Indian Tribes; and

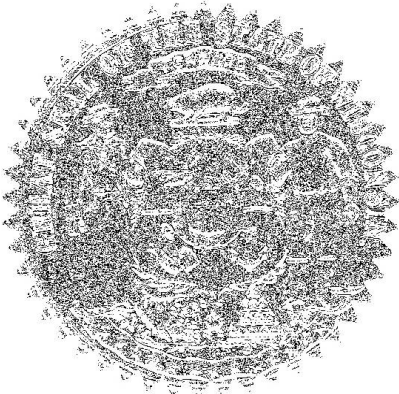
WHEREAS, State and Tribal governments play key roles in serving all of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and collaboration between Tribes and State agencies will ensure that services are efficiently provided to all citizens, minimize service overlap, preserve natural resources and encourage sustainable economic development;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby:

1. Direct cabinet agencies to recognize the unique legal relationship between the State of Wisconsin and Indian Tribes, respect fundamental principles that establish and maintain this relationship and accord Tribal governments the same respect accorded other governments;
2. Direct cabinet agencies to recognize the unique government-to-government relationship between the State of Wisconsin and Indian Tribes when formulating and implementing policies or programs that directly affect Indian Tribes and their members, and whenever feasible and appropriate, consult the governments of the affected Tribe or Tribes regarding state action or proposed action that is anticipated to directly affect an Indian Tribe or its members;
3. In instances where the State of Wisconsin assumes control over formerly federal programs that directly affect Indian Tribes or their members, direct cabinet agencies, when feasible and appropriate, to consider Tribal needs and endeavor to ensure that Tribal interests are taken into account by the cabinet agency administering the formerly federal program; and
4. Direct cabinet agencies to work cooperatively to accomplish the goals of this order;

5. General Provisions.

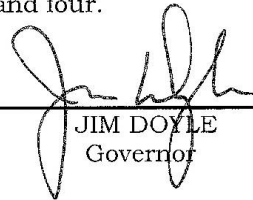
- a. Nothing in this order shall require cabinet agencies to violate or ignore any laws, rules, directives or other legal requirements or obligations imposed by state or federal law.
- b. Nothing in this order shall require cabinet agencies to violate or ignore any agreements or compacts between one or more Indian Tribes and the State of Wisconsin or one or more of its agencies.
- c. If any provision in this order conflicts with any laws, rules, agreements or other legal requirements or obligations imposed by state or federal law, the state or federal law shall control.
- d. Nothing in this order prohibits or limits any cabinet agency from asserting or pursuing any action or right, or taking any position under state or federal law or any existing agreement in relation to the interests of the State of Wisconsin or any of its state agencies.
- e. Nothing in this order creates any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the State of Wisconsin, its agencies, or any person.



By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-seventh day of February, in the year two thousand four.


JIM DOYLE
Governor

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to serve as an educational tool when working with the 11 tribal governments in the State of Wisconsin. It provides a very general overview of issues and information affecting the Tribes in Wisconsin. The areas of Native American history and Native American law are extremely complicated. This manual is to serve only as a reference guide.

The manual is divided into two sections. The first section will provide a general overview of the Tribes. It discusses the State Tribal Relations Office, the Governor's Executive Order #39, statistics, protocols, economic impact, gaming, revenue, and legal issues. The second section provides detailed information on each of the 11 Tribes in Wisconsin. The information in the second section is provided by each tribal government. The Department only provided the template.

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS IN WISCONSIN

On February 27, 2004, Governor Jim Doyle issued Executive Order 39 affirming the government to government relationship between the state and the 11 tribal governments in Wisconsin. Based on this Executive order, all of the Governor's cabinet agencies have consultation policies that specify how they will work with tribal governments. All the agencies have annual consultation meetings with the tribal elected officials to discuss programs, laws, and funding that may affect the Tribe. The policy also includes steps to mitigate conflicts and disagreements. Additionally each cabinet agency is responsible for notifying the Tribes of any change to programs, laws, or funding as these changes occur. This policy allows and encourages an open line of communication between the Tribes and the state agency.

The Department of Administration, Division of Intergovernmental Relations spearheads the State-Tribal Relations program for the State of Wisconsin. However, each cabinet agency has designated at least one staff member to be a tribal liaison. This liaison will work with the Department of Administration to make sure that all tribal leaders are getting needed information on a timely basis.

PROTOCOLS ON WORKING WITH TRIBES

The following is a list of suggestions when working with Tribes.

- Tribal leaders are governmental officials and business professionals. Treat them accordingly.
- No tribal leader speaks for all the Tribes in Wisconsin. Each elected tribal official represents his/her own nation and is responsible to those citizens.
- Tribal members are not racial minorities. They are citizens of sovereign nations. To speak to citizens of tribal governments as a minority is insulting and inappropriate.
- Prepare for your meetings. It is not the responsibility of the Tribe to educate you on their history, government, location and general background information.
- Tribal leaders should meet directly with cabinet secretaries, deputy secretaries, executive assistants or division administrators. Other meetings with tribal council officials and tribal staff should be conducted at the same level of officials within state government.
- Learn the appropriate title for the tribal representatives. In Wisconsin, there are tribal chairpersons, tribal presidents, vice presidents, legislators and board members. Also, there are tribal councils and legislatures.
- Be prepared to follow through on your discussions. Consultation is only the first step in communication.
- Native Americans have had strained relationships with governments due to lack of follow through, appropriate respect and broken promises. Be mindful of this fact when working with the tribal governments.
- In Wisconsin, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1965 to support tribal self-sufficiency. All Tribes in Wisconsin belong except the Ho-Chunk Nation. While GLITC serves an important function by providing a broad input, they do not speak for the tribal

governments. You must communicate directly with each tribal leader. GLITC does provide an opportunity to address the tribal leaders but individual follow-through is still required.

- In Wisconsin, there is the Legislative Council Committee on State-Tribal Relations. The Committee serves an important legislative function but the committee does not speak for tribal government
- Not all Tribes are wealthy. While Indian gaming has helped the economic base of all Tribes, there is a disparity in revenues generated. Be mindful of this fact when working with the tribal governments and in discussion with others.
- Do not rely on e-mails or letters as a form of communication. Follow up written correspondence with a phone call or visit.

STATISTICS

National

281,421,906 - Total United States population in 2000

- 4,119,301 total Native American/Alaska Native; alone or in combination with one or more race (1.46 % of the total population)

There are 562 federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States.

- 226 of those are located in Alaska, the remaining are located in 34 other states

Wisconsin

There are 11 federally-recognized Indian Tribes in Wisconsin. Listed below are all Tribes in Wisconsin (alphabetically). Detailed information on each tribal government is provided later in this informational book.

5,363,675 - Total population in Wisconsin in 2000

- 69,386 total Native American population, one race or combination of more (1.29% of the total population in Wisconsin)

37,276 - Total population living on Reservation and/or Trust Lands in Wisconsin

16,065 - Native American population, one race or combination

21,211 - Total non-Native American population (17,719 is non-Native on Oneida reservation and/or trust land)

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
1,411 total population; 1,124 Native American
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
513 total population; 489 Native American
- Ho-Chunk Nation
960 total population; 853 Native American
- Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
2,900 total population; 2,179 Native American
- Lac du Flambeau (LdF) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
2,995 total population; 1,797 Native American
- *Menominee Nation
3,225 total population; 3,088 Native American
- *Mohican Nation, Stockbridge Munsee Band
1,527 total population; 807 Native American
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
21,321 total population; 3,602 Native American
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
1,078 total population; 937 Native American
- St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians
641 total population; 577 Native American
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community
392 total population; 336 Native American

* There is a Menominee/Stockbridge Joint-Use Area with a total population of 295, which includes 276 American Indians.

There are also large urban Indian populations found in Milwaukee (9,116), Madison (1,898), and Green Bay (4,241).

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Tribes are extremely valuable economic engines in Wisconsin. Indian gaming has aided tribal governments and members with additional monetary resources. The positive effects from gaming extend far beyond reservation or trust land borders. Non-Native Americans have found employment in the gaming industry, often located in rural and economically challenged areas. Outside contracts generated from the gaming industry further fuel a positive economy. The tourism industry has also benefited substantially.

The following is a list of employment rankings provided by Department of Workforce Development dated 1st Quarter of 2010.

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
They are the largest employer in Ashland County.
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
They are the largest employer in Forest County, among the largest in Milwaukee County.
- Ho-Chunk Nation
They are the largest employer in Sauk and Jackson Counties.
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band Of Lake Superior Chippewa
They are the largest employer in Sawyer County.
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
They are the largest employer in Vilas County.
- Menominee Nation
They are the largest employer in Menominee County.
- Mohican Nation, Stockbridge-Munsee Band
They are the largest employer in Shawano County.
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
They are the fifth largest employer in Brown County.
They are the fourteenth largest employer in Outagamie County.
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
They are the largest employer in Bayfield County.
- St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians
They are the largest employer in Burnett County.
They are the second largest employer in Barron County.
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community
They are the twelfth largest employer in Forest County.

GAMING / COMPACTS

The Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988 mandates that states negotiate Gaming Compacts (compacts) with Tribes to identify what types of class III games will be conducted on tribal lands and to define how such games will be regulated. Class III games are casino-type games of chance, but do not include electronic and traditional bingo or pull-tabs, which are regulated by the Tribes and the federal governments.

All eleven federally-recognized Tribes in Wisconsin have entered into Class III compacts with the state to operate a combined total of twenty-three gaming locations. The compacts define the State's regulatory role in the operation of the class III gaming facilities, as well as any other duties or obligations between the Tribes and the State regarding class III gaming, such as the obligation to make certain payments to the State.

The Wisconsin Division of Gaming, Office of Indian Gaming and Regulatory Compliance (OIGRC) were established under Chapter 561.14, Wis. Stats. to oversee and enforce the compacts and began operation

in October 1992. The OIGRC's role is to provide a consistent and unified regulatory approach to tribal gaming as conducted under these compacts.

All gaming/compact related questions should be directed to the Division of Gaming at (608) 270-2534.

LEGAL ISSUES

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

What is Tribal sovereignty?

- Sovereignty is defined as an inherent right or power to govern a people and territory.
- The U.S. Constitution, under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (Indian Commerce Clause) states that "Congress shall have the power to...regulate commerce with foreign Nations, among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes." This is the basis for the recognition of Indian nations as sovereign governments, recognition reaffirmed by hundreds of treaties, federal laws and court cases that retain the right to govern themselves.

Why are Native Americans treated differently than other ethnic minorities?

- This sovereignty is the reason that Tribes are treated different from other racial minorities. Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are citizens of tribal governments that have a special relationship with the federal government.
- The U.S. entered into treaties with Native Americans not because of their race, but because they are a separate political group that retained the ability to self-govern after European arrival in the U.S.

Do Tribes have absolute authority over all people and activities on their land?

- No, Tribes retain only the sovereign powers that have not been taken away by Congress, given up by treaty or have been taken away by implication based upon the fact that they are "domestic dependent nations," as termed by the U.S. Supreme Court, under the protection of the U.S. government.

What is the nature of the relationship between the federal government and Tribes?

- The federal government holds a "trust responsibility," similar to a fiduciary responsibility, for tribal governments.
- The U.S. Congress has "plenary power" over Tribes, essentially allowing the Congress to legislate any aspect of the affairs of a Tribe it chooses. It is for this reason that states can only enact legislation affecting tribal ability to self-govern to the extent that the U.S. Congress allows them to.

What governing power do Tribal governments still have?

- The tribal sovereignty that remains generally gives Tribes the ability to govern and to protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal citizens within tribal territory. This manifests itself in tribal governments determining their citizenship, establishing civil and criminal codes and is ruled by them in tribal courts, to tax, to license and regulate and exclude people from tribal land.
- As a result, tribal governments are responsible for a broad range of governmental activities on tribal land, including education, law enforcement, justice systems, environmental protection and basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewers, waste treatment and disposal and public buildings.

What is sovereign immunity?

- Similar to the sovereign immunity of state governments from suit guaranteed under the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, tribal governments exercise a form of governmental immunity.
- Like federal and state governments, tribal governments retain limited immunity in order to protect government funds and discretionary governmental functions.
- Tribes provide insurance and limited waivers of their sovereign immunity, taking responsibility for the actions of tribal employees.

TRIBAL JURISDICTION

The question whether the federal government, state, or Tribe (or more than one of these entities) has jurisdiction over an activity or person in Indian country is one of the most complicated issues in Indian law. Issues arise with respect to: (1) criminal jurisdiction, (2) civil jurisdiction (which typically involves lawsuits between persons), and (3) civil regulatory jurisdiction.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

In Wisconsin, criminal jurisdiction depends on whether a reservation is, or is not, subject to Public Law 83-280 (PL 280). Passed by Congress in 1953, PL 280 mandated the transfer of criminal jurisdiction in Indian country from the federal government to five states. However, Congress made an exception for the Menominee Reservation because of other factors. In essence, all reservations and off-reservation trust lands in Wisconsin, except the Menominee Reservation, are subject to state criminal jurisdiction. In general, this means that state courts and state law enforcement officials have criminal jurisdiction on the reservation or on off-reservation trust land. Exceptions are made under PL 280 to protect both tribal trust status and treaty rights. For example, reservation Indians are not required to comply with state law on zoning, hunting and fishing or pay property taxes on trust land, and states cannot impose penalties for failure to do so.

Because the Menominee Reservation is not a PL 280 reservation, the nature of the crime and whether the perpetrator and victim are Indian or non-Indian determine jurisdiction. Generally, if an Indian is involved, the federal court or tribal court (or, in some cases, both) have jurisdiction. However, if both the perpetrator and victim are non-Indian or if the perpetrator of a victimless or consensual crime is non-Indian, the state has jurisdiction if a state criminal law was violated. Wisconsin statutes authorize the Wisconsin Attorney General to negotiate an agreement with the Menominee Tribe relating to the extradition of fugitives, witnesses, and evidence from the Menominee Reservation. However, no extradition agreement is currently in place.

In 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court held that federal law did not prohibit state law enforcement officials from entering a reservation to investigate and prosecute a tribal member for an off-reservation violation of state law.

CIVIL JURISDICTION

Civil jurisdiction essentially refers to matters in a court that relate to private rights and remedies, as contrasted with criminal proceedings. Civil actions include, for example, a tort claim that arises following an automobile accident or a lawsuit over a contract. In addition to its transfer of criminal jurisdiction, PL 280 also mandated the transfer of civil jurisdiction from Tribes to five states, including Wisconsin, except on the Menominee Reservation. Thus, as with criminal jurisdiction, a distinction is made between the Menominee Reservation and the other reservations in Wisconsin.

In general, on all reservations and off-reservation trust land in Wisconsin, except the Menominee Reservation, PL 280 essentially provides that even if American Indians are involved as parties, state courts have jurisdiction over a civil matter that arises on the reservation or off-reservation trust land. For example, if two individuals had an automobile accident on a PL 280 reservation, the state court would have subject matter jurisdiction. Tribal courts may retain concurrent jurisdiction under certain circumstances.

CIVIL JURISDICTION ON THE MENOMINEE RESERVATION

PL 280 does not delegate civil jurisdiction to the state on the Menominee Reservation. In general, the courts have held that civil jurisdiction is, in part, determined by: (1) the status of the land where the claim arose, that is, fee land (owned by an individual) versus trust land (land held in trust by the Federal government) on the reservation; and (2) whether one of the parties is a member of the Tribe.

Generally a state court has exclusive jurisdiction over a lawsuit between individuals who are not members of the Menominee Tribe for actions arising on fee land on the Menominee Reservation not owned by the Menominee Tribe or an American Indian.

If a claim arose on fee land on the Menominee Reservation and a tribal member was a party, the answer to which court has jurisdiction may depend on whether the tribal member is the plaintiff or defendant, but this area of the law is unsettled. When a tribal member or tribal interest is involved on trust land on the Menominee Reservation, a state court generally would not have civil jurisdiction.

These general principles leave some questions unanswered and will not necessarily be applied by a court in all instances. In cases in where more than one court may have jurisdiction, plaintiffs have sometimes been required to exhaust their remedies in tribal court before the other court proceeds.

CIVIL REGULATORY JURISDICTION

Outside Indian Country, the general rule is that activities of Native Americans and Tribes are subject to a state's nondiscriminatory civil regulatory laws. However, the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to resolve the issue of whether a Tribe has sovereign immunity with respect to suits for violation of a state civil regulatory law.

A Tribe may exercise civil regulatory jurisdiction over its tribal members on the Tribe's reservation or off-reservation trust land. However, the applicability of state civil regulatory laws in Indian country and the applicability of tribal civil regulatory laws to non-Indians in Indian country are two of the most complex and unsettled areas of Indian law. Moreover, they are two of the most frequently litigated.

The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that PL 280 did not transfer civil regulatory jurisdiction to the states. In the absence of a treaty provision or a specific congressional delegation of jurisdiction to a state, a state's civil regulatory laws do not apply to Tribes or tribal members in Indian country unless the courts have held otherwise. In recent years, the courts have increasingly held otherwise by moving away from prior court decisions that generally presumed that state civil regulatory laws did not apply in Indian country.

SUMMARY

In summary, unless a specific issue has been fully litigated, there is some uncertainty about civil regulatory jurisdiction. Even if it were clear which test a court would apply to analyze whether a particular civil regulatory law applies in Indian country, the outcome of the application of the test is by no means certain because the analysis typically would depend on the facts and circumstances involved. In some cases, uncertainty can be minimized if there is an explicit agreement between a Tribe and the state or local government about an issue.

TREATIES

All Tribes in Wisconsin have entered into treaties with the United States. The Tribes often ceded the right to occupy certain lands but reserved the right to occupy a smaller territory or agreed to be removed to a different territory that would be reserved for them. The treaties included provisions that guaranteed the tribal government services in areas of education, health and technical assistance. Some treaties guaranteed tribal members the right to hunt fish and gather resources on ceded lands. In 1871, Congress essentially prohibited the President from entering into future treaties with Tribes.

LANDS

All of the 11 Tribes except for the Ho-Chunk Nation have a reservation, land that the United States has set aside out of the public domain for the use of a Tribe. The Ho-Chunk Nation does not have a

consolidated reservation but has trust land in 14 counties, a few of which have been granted reservation status.

There are six broad categories of land tenure on reservations:

- Trust land held for a Tribe
- Trust land held for a Native American which is a member of the Tribe which has that reservation
- Trust land held for a Native American who is not a member of the Tribe that has the reservation. (The Tribe's permission is required to place land in trust under these circumstances.)
- Fee land owned by a Tribe
- Fee land owned by a tribal member
- Fee land owned by neither the Tribe nor member, typically a non-Indian.

Trust land refers to land in which the title is held by the United States Government in trust for a Tribe or individual Native American. This land cannot be sold without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Trust land is exempt from taxation by state and local government.

Fee land refers to land in which the title is held by an owner. The land is generally subject to taxation.

If a Tribe or American Indian purchases and holds the land as fee land, they may petition the Secretary of Interior to take the land in trust. The Secretary may or may not agree to do so. A Tribe may apply to have any fee land that has been acquired put into trust land. A Native American may only apply if the land is on or adjacent to a reservation or land that is already in trust.

TRIBAL TAXATION

Do Tribal governments pay federal taxes?

Tribal government revenues are not taxed, just like state and local government revenues are not. The federal government has never taxed governmental revenue of state, tribal or local governments. This is a long-standing federal policy with constitutional support that prevents interference with the ability to raise revenue for government functions. Like state and local governments, tribal governments use their revenues to provide essential services for their citizens. Unlike state governments, tribal governments are not in a position to levy property or income taxes. Income from tribal businesses is the only non-federal revenue source.

Do Tribal governments pay state taxes?

States cannot directly tax a tribal government. The Supreme Court has held that state governments can collect excise taxes on sales to non-members that occur on tribal lands, so long as the tax does not fall directly on the tribal government. States and Tribes have developed a variety of methods for collecting these taxes, which most often take the form of intergovernmental agreements or pre-taxing at the wholesale level.

Do Indian people pay taxes?

Individual Native Americans and Alaska Natives and their businesses pay federal income tax just like every other American. The one exception is when an Indian person receives income directly from a treaty or trust resource such as fish or timber, that income is not federally taxed. States also cannot tax tribal members who live and derive their income on tribal lands.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has a publication available to the public – Publication 405, titled “Wisconsin Taxation of Native Americans.” This publication can be seen at the following web page: <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/pb405.pdf>.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) will support member Tribes in expanding self-determination efforts by providing services and assistance. GLITC will use a broad range of knowledge and experience to advocate for the improvement and unity of tribal governments, communities, and individuals. Throughout these activities, GLITC will maintain deep respect for tribal sovereignty and reservation community values. (Source: www.glitc.org)

Each Tribe in Wisconsin is a separate government. No Tribe in Wisconsin is controlled by another Tribe or speaks for another Tribe. All Wisconsin Tribes belongs to Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council (GLITC), which is a consortium of federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin and the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe of Michigan.

GLITC was originally devoted to delivering services and programs such as health, aging, and economic development to member Tribes. However, as many Tribes have become increasingly capable of providing services to their own communities, GLITC's role has changed from direct delivery of services to assisting member Tribes in the delivery of services and supplementing a Tribe's service capacity.

The GLITC Board of Directors is comprised of the tribal chair of each member Tribe or the chair's designated representative. The Board meets throughout the year to discuss items of mutual interest.

Legislative Council on State Tribal Relations

The Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations is a permanent committee of the Joint Legislative Council established under s. 13.83 (3), Stats. The committee is directed by statute to:

... study issues related to American Indians and the American Indian Tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues.

The membership of the committee, appointed by the Joint Legislative Council, consists of not fewer than 6 nor more than 12 legislator members of the senate and assembly, including at least one member of the majority party and at least one member of the minority party from each house, and not fewer than 6 nor more than 11 members selected from names submitted by the federally recognized American Indian Tribes and bands in this state or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC). (Source: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc)

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is an inter-tribal, co-management agency committed to the implementation of off-reservation treaty rights on behalf of its eleven Ojibwe member Tribes. Formed in 1984 and exercising authority specifically delegated by its member Tribes, GLIFWC's mission is to help ensure significant, off-reservation harvests while protecting the resources for generations to come.

GLIFWC is an agency of eleven Ojibwe nations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, with off-reservation treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather in treaty-ceded lands. There are six Ojibwe Tribes in Wisconsin: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, St. Croix and Sokaogon (Mole Lake).

GLIFWC further provides natural resource management expertise, conservation enforcement, legal and policy analysis, and public information services. (Source: www.glifwc.org)

Wisconsin Indian Education Association

The mission of the Wisconsin Indian Education Association (WIEA) is to promote and support education and educationally related opportunities for American Indian people in Wisconsin.

WIEA was established in 1985 by a group of concerned Indian educators to carry on the efforts of the former Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) Education sub-committee. In its initial stages, the organization was primarily concerned with information sharing. However, in recent years, the Board has become proactive regarding issues that affect Indian education.

The association has seven regions throughout the state; each region elects or appoints two representatives as WIEA Board members for a two-year term.

WIEA applied for and was granted 501(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt status in 1986 with the idea that fund raising for scholarships would be one of the association's major efforts. (Source: www.wiea.org)

Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.

Wisconsin Judicare, established in 1966, operates as follows. Eligible persons are issued a Judicare card. When they have a legal problem, they take their card to a local attorney to discuss their problem. The lawyer then contacts the Judicare office. If Judicare approves the case, the local attorney does the work for the client and Judicare pays the lawyer's fee.

From the beginning, Wisconsin Judicare recognized a special commitment to serving Wisconsin Indians and Indian Tribes. Wisconsin Judicare has played an active role in many major Wisconsin cases concerning tribal sovereignty and treaty rights issues in the last 30 years. Since 1980, Wisconsin Judicare has received a separate grant from the Legal Services Corporation to provide legal services to Native Americans.

Today, Wisconsin Judicare has eight staff attorney positions and a support staff of seven. The attorneys are organized in a Civil Unit and an Indian Law Office. The program has one office in Wausau and relies primarily on private attorneys to represent eligible clients. (Source: www.judicare.org)

MAST (Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes)

The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, (MAST), founded in 1996, represents the 35 sovereign tribal nations of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan. Altogether, MAST represents nearly 134,000 American Indian people.

MAST's mission is to "advance, protect, preserve, and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign nations of the Midwest throughout the 21st century." The organization coordinates important public policy issues and initiatives at the state, regional and federal levels, promotes unity and cooperation among member Tribes and advocates for member Tribes.

MAST is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the tribal chairperson, chief president, or chief executive of each member Tribe. Four officers are elected from among the board of directors; a President; Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer.

MAST issues and activities include:

- Protecting Indian economic opportunity protecting tribal sovereignty and self-government.
- Protecting the rights of individual Indians and member Tribes pursuant to treaties with the United States.
- Protecting Indian lands, including the rights to place lands into trust, and protecting tribal environmental authorities.

- Improving education for Indian children and adults, both on and off the reservation.
- Improving the health and well-being of Indian people in the Midwest.
- Protecting the cultural and religious resources and rights of all Indian people.
- Improving reservation infrastructure, including the provision of safe and affordable homes, clean water, sound utilities and good roads. (Source: <http://m-a-s-t.org>)

Tribal Colleges

There are two tribal colleges located in Wisconsin.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (LCOOCC) serves higher educational needs in remote, low-income areas of northern Wisconsin. Typical per-semester enrollment at LCOOCC exceeds 550 individuals from four reservation areas. LCOOCC's "open-door" policy allows both American Indian and non-Indian students seeking higher education the opportunity to begin their collegiate studies in an atmosphere conducive to their economic and social environment. LCOOCC offers both certificate and associate degree programs, and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As regional economies struggle, the need for the types of skills and training that a community college is uniquely positioned to offer become an even more important avenue for individuals and families to prosper and contribute to their communities. (Source: www.lco.edu)

The College of the Menominee Nation was chartered by the Menominee Tribal Legislature in 1993. The college was granted full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) in 1998. The college offers classes at sites on the Oneida and Potawatomi reservations so that other Native Americans can benefit from a tribally-run college. The college also represents an opportunity for individuals to continue their education while working. A large number of the students are part-time. (Source: www.menominee.edu)

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Department of Workforce Development

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Forest County Potawatomi Community

Ho-Chunk Nation

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Menominee Nation

Mohican Nation, Stockbridge Munsee Band

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians

Sokaogon Chippewa Community

100 Questions

Who is an

AMERICAN INDIAN?

1. Who is an American Indian? There are millions of people with Indian ancestry, but that does not make them American Indians in the eyes of tribes or the federal government. The federal government considers someone American Indian if he or she belongs to a federally recognized tribe. Individual tribes have the exclusive right to determine their own membership. Tribal governments formally list their members, who must meet specific criteria for enrollment. Some require a person to trace half of his or her lineage to the tribe, while others require only proof of descent.

2. Where did American Indians come from originally? Many anthropologists believe that Indians traveled about 35,000 years ago across a land bridge spanning the Bering Strait from Asia to North America. Most tribes have their own creation story. Many believe that Native peoples originated on this continent.

3. Why are native peoples referred to as Indians? Indigenous people in the United States were first referred to as Indians because Columbus believed he had reached the East Indies when he touched the shores of North America. Today, many Native people prefer to call themselves American Indian to avoid stereotypes associated with Indian.

4. Which is correct: American Indian or Native American? Either term is generally acceptable, although individuals may have a preference. Native American was first used in the 1960s for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Over time, Native American has been expanded to include all native peoples of the United States and its territories, including Hawaiian natives, Chamorros and American Samoans. (Native American and American Indian are used interchangeably in this document.)

5. How many American Indians and Alaska Natives are there? There are 2.3 million, according to U.S. Census estimates for 1997. They represent roughly 1 percent of the overall

population. Before Europeans arrived in North America, Native Americans may have numbered as many as 10 million. By the time colonists began keeping records, the population was substantially less, ravaged by war, famine, forced labor and disease from Europeans.

6. Who are Native American families? Nearly two-thirds are married couples, and 27 percent are families headed by single women. Birth rates are higher among American Indian families than the rest of the United States, and there are more American Indian families living in poverty than other Americans. American Indian families median income was \$22,000 in 1990, compared to \$35,000 for all U.S. families.

7. Are the numbers of American Indians declining today? The population is young and growing steadily. Since July 1990, the American Indian and Alaska Native population increased 12 percent, while the white population grew 3 percent. The U.S. Census projects that the American Indian and Alaska Native population will reach 4.4 million by 2050.

8. What are the reasons for the rise? American Indians and Alaska Natives get better health care and live longer than they did in the recent past. Also, more people are likely to identify themselves as American Indians and Alaska Natives than in earlier Census counts.

9. Why does the government refer to indigenous people in Alaska as Alaska Natives instead of as American Indians? Alaska Natives are Eskimo (Inupiat and Yupik), Alaskan Indians (Athabaskan, Haida, Tlingit and Thimshian) and Aleut. They are culturally distinct and prefer to be called Alaska Native instead of being grouped as American Indian.

10. Are Native Hawaiians considered American Indians? No, Native Hawaiians, known as Kanaka Maoli in Hawaiian, trace their lineage and language to Polynesians, including Tahitians, Maoris and Samoans. Starting in 2000, the federal government will recognize Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders as a distinct group, including in Census counts. Native Hawaiians often unite with

other Native Americans over issues of self-governance and self-determination.

WHAT IS A TRIBE?

11. What is a tribe? Originally, tribes were a society of people bound by blood ties, family relations and a common language. They also had their own religion and political system. When members of different tribes were forced to live together on reservations, some new tribal groupings formed.

12. How many tribes are there? In 1998, there are 554 federally recognized tribes in the United States, according to the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. This includes 226 native villages in Alaska. Federal recognition acknowledges the government-to-government status a tribe has with the United States, and also provides for certain federal services.

13. OK, there are a lot of different tribes. But aren't American Indians pretty much the same as a group? Indian tribes are as different, for example, as the Irish and Italian. Individual tribes have their own culture, language and tradition. Many groups may be strangers to one another. Some were once enemies.

14. Which is the largest tribe? With a 1990 population of 308,132, Cherokees are the largest U.S. tribe. Most live in Oklahoma though more than 5,000 Cherokees live on a reservation in North Carolina.

15. Are Indian tribes and Indian nations the same? Yes. The federally recognized tribes are considered self-governing - or sovereign nations by Congress. Thus, the federal government deals with tribes as political entities, not as persons of a particular race. The political status of tribes is written in the Constitution: "The Congress shall have power ... to regulate commerce with foreign nations...and with the Indian tribes."

16. Can any tribe be federally recognized? A rigorous application process determines federal recognition. Many nations were recognized by treaty-making in the 18th and 19th centuries,

though several groups are petitioning for recognition today. The Bureau of Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior maintains a directory of federally recognized tribes.

17. When was the last time a tribe won federal recognition? In 1996, the Huron Potawatomi of Michigan received status as a federally recognized Indian nation. In 1998, there are 14 tribes under active consideration by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which has final approval.

18. What powers do the tribes, as nations, hold? They have a nationhood status, enjoying the powers of government, except for those expressly taken away by Congress or overruled by the Supreme Court. The United States recognizes the tribes' rights to form their own government, determine membership, administer justice, raise taxes, establish businesses and exclude people from reservations. Tribal nations regulate Indian land, resources and the conduct of tribal members on Indian land.

19. What kind of governments do the tribes run? Most tribal governments are organized democratically with elected leaders in highly developed political systems that often predate the arrival of European settlers. While similar in structure to American governments, the tribal governments are smaller, with far fewer resources.

20. What is the tribal council? The tribe's governing body is usually referred to as the tribal council, and is elected by adult members of the tribe. Heading the council is one elected chairperson, president, chief or governor who is the recognized leader. The council performs the legislative aspects of tribal government.

21. Are reservations and tribal governments the same? No. Tribal governments existed long before reservations were established. However, the governing authority on reservations is the tribal council. In cases where different tribes share a reservation, they often run separate governments, as the Shoshone and Arapaho do in Wyoming.

WHAT IS A RESERVATION?

22. What is a reservation? Indian reservations are areas of land reserved by the federal government as permanent tribal homelands. The United States established its reservation policy for American Indians in 1787. Today there are 314 reservations, among the last, large tracts of private lands.

23. Why is it called a reservation? The term originates from the federal government's act of reserving land for federal purposes. In the United States, there are two kinds of reserved land that are well known: military and Indian.

24. Do all American Indians live on reservations? No. More than 60 percent live away from reservations, the U.S. Census reports. However, many return to visit family and attend ceremonies.

25. How much land do Native Americans hold? About 56 million acres in reservations and trust land. The Navajo Reservation is the largest, numbering 16 million acres and occupying parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Many smaller reservations are less than 1,000 acres.

26. What is trust land? Land held by the United States for the use and benefit of American Indian tribes. Virtually all trust land is located in reservations. Tribes also have the ability to purchase land and to petition the federal government to hold it in trust, protecting the land from encroachment or seizure. Actions affecting title to trust lands, including sales, are subject to approval of the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

27. Who owns reservations? The United States holds title to the land for the tribes, with the Department of Interior acting as trustee. The tribe or individual whose land is held in trust is the owner. Non-Indians also own significant portions of reservation land, though tribes may exercise jurisdiction over it.

28. Has the government tried to take away tribal land? From the 1880s to the 1930s, Congress opened tribal lands for sale, with reservations losing two-thirds of their land base. In the 1950s, the Eisenhower administration adopted a "termination" policy, closing many reservations while trying to assimilate Indians into white society.

29. What kind of mineral reserves are on tribal land? Reservations contain a wealth of minerals: 5 percent of the nation's oil and gas reserves, 50 percent of the uranium and 30 percent of low sulfur coal. Other minerals include phosphate, quartz crystal, sand, gravel, potash and sodium. Even if tribes do not mine the minerals, they may lease the rights to others.

30. What is Indian country? Indian country is a legal term used in Title 18 of the U.S. Code. It broadly defines federal and tribal jurisdiction in crimes affecting Indians on reservations. But it also has popular usage, describing reservations and areas with American Indian populations.

31. What are the living conditions in Indian country? While health, education and economic conditions have improved in the last several years, native communities still lag behind the rest of the country in most every category. Income levels are substantially lower in Indian country than the rest of the nation. Indians on reservations also are much more likely than the general population to die from accidents, alcoholism, diabetes, pneumonia, suicide, homicide and tuberculosis.

WHAT IS TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY?

32. What is tribal sovereignty? Just like states, tribes have attributes of sovereignty to govern, their own territory and internal affairs. The status of tribes as self-governing nations is affirmed and upheld by treaties, case law and the Constitution. Legal scholars explain that tribes are inherently sovereign, meaning they do not trace their existence to the United States.

33. How does sovereignty work? The doctrine of tribal sovereignty was affirmed in three Supreme Court rulings in the 1800s. It recognizes the right of American Indian tribes to self-govern and run their internal affairs as so-called "domestic, dependent nations." It keeps states from interfering with that right, while allowing Congress to override an Indian nation's authority.

34. Is sovereignty largely symbolic today? There is nothing more important to Indian governments and people than sovereignty, tribal leaders say. It is a fundamental principle of the U.S. Constitution with increasing legal significance. Recently, tribes have worked to regain control of their economies and resources by asserting their rights as sovereign powers, sometimes in conflict with neighboring states.

35. What is the government-to-government relationship? It is federal policy expressing how the United States interacts with tribes. It requires the United States to assess federal actions affecting tribes and to consult with the tribes about those actions.

36. How are tribes exercising their status as sovereign nations? In New Mexico, for example, the Islets Pueblo tribe is requiring the city of Albuquerque to abide by its clean-water standards, which are stricter and costlier than state

requirements. In the Pacific Northwest, tribes partner with state and federal governments to co-manage fisheries and protect salmon stock.

37. What is sovereign immunity? It is the ability of a government to define the terms upon which it can be sued. Tribes have invoked sovereign immunity in suits that challenge their authority to regulate land use. There have been recent efforts in Congress to limit a tribe's sovereign immunity, but they have not been adopted.

38. Do states have jurisdiction over American Indians or their land? States do not have any civil or criminal jurisdiction in Indian country unless Congress delegates it or the federal courts determine it exists. Most recently, the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, adopted by Congress, requires tribes and states to enter into compacts, or agreements, before gambling operations can open on Indian land.

39. Do American Indians have to obey the same laws as non-Indians? When tribal members are off reservations, they are generally subject to local, state and federal laws. On reservations, they are subject only to federal and tribal laws. Under federal law, known as the Assimilative Crimes Act, any violation of state criminal law on a reservation is a federal crime.

40. Are Indians American citizens? Yes. Indians have dual citizenship as tribal members and as American citizens. Congress extended citizenship to American Indians in 1924.

41. Can American Indians vote? American Indians and Alaska Natives have the same right to vote as other American citizens. They vote in local, state, federal and tribal elections. Each tribe has the right to determine its criteria for eligible voters in tribal elections.

42. Do Native Americans pay state or federal taxes? They pay the same taxes as everyone else with the following exceptions: Native Americans employed on reservations do not pay state income taxes. American Indians living on trust land are free from local and state property taxes. Generally, state sales taxes are not levied on Indian transactions made on reservations. Indians do not pay federal income taxes on money earned from trust lands, such as fees received for grazing rights and oil drilling

WHAT ARE TREATIES?

43. What are treaties? From 1777 to 1871, U.S. relations with Indian nations were negotiated

through legally binding agreements called treaties. These treaties, or agreements, between tribal governments and the United States transferred and created property rights as well as service obligations. There were 371 treaties signed with American Indian tribes, usually to gain rights to their land.

44. What agreements did the treaties contain? The treaties often promised Indians protection, goods, services, self-governing rights and a tribal homeland in exchange for their cooperation and vast acres of land.

45. Why did European settlers enter into treaties with the tribes? Tribes had power because of their military strength and knowledge of the land. They could have forced Europeans off the continent, if they had banded together. European law also taught colonists that land transactions required legal documentation.

46. Why did the tribes agree to the treaties? Faced with giving up their lands or losing their people to war, disease and a rising tide of settlers, the Indians entered into the agreements. The tribes view treaties as solemn moral obligations.

47. Were the treaties broken? Over the years, conflicting federal policy and court rulings resulted in Native peoples losing some of their civil rights and lands. An early example was the Trail of Tears, the forced march of 14,000 Cherokees from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee to Oklahoma, despite a 1791 treaty granting them a permanent homeland. About 4,000 Cherokees — mostly babies, children and old people — died from starvation, exposure and disease.

48. What is trust responsibility? The federal Indian trust responsibility is considered one of the more important principles in federal Indian law. It is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation by the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources and treaty rights. Supreme Court rulings suggest that trust responsibility entails legal as well as moral duties.

49. Are treaties still valid? Although the government stopped entering into treaties with Indian tribes in 1871, the Constitution holds treaties as "the supreme law of the land." Once a treaty is signed, it stays in effect unless superseded by acts of Congress or other treaties.

50. Do treaties grant Native Americans special rights today? In the Pacific Northwest, tribes are able to hunt, fish and gather food as their ancestors did. On all reservations, tribes have access to free education and medical care provided by the federal government. These are examples of Indian rights based on treaties signed years ago.

51. Are treaties being challenged? There are many efforts in modern times to dilute and

challenge treaty rights. Most recently, bills have been introduced in Congress that seek to limit the ability of tribes to govern themselves and give authority to states over the tribes. No major changes have been enacted, however.

52. What is the American Indian Movement?

The activist organization, known as AIM, was founded in 1968 to promote civil rights for Native Americans. Over the years, it has sought recognition of treaty rights through sit-ins and highly visible protests. In 1972, AIM organized the "Trail of Broken Treaties," converging on Washington, D.C., before the presidential election. AIM is still active today, with branches across the United States.

WHAT DOES THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS DO?

53. What does the Bureau of Indian Affairs do? The bureau is the principal federal agency working with tribes. Its job is to provide services and/or funds for services to benefit tribal members. Unlike the 1800s, when the bureau was in the War Department, the bureau's stated goal is to help tribes with self-determination. Almost 100 percent of its employees are tribal members.

54. How does someone qualify for BIA services? Persons must belong to a federally recognized tribe.

55. What services does the BIA provide? The bureau's \$1.7 billion budget in fiscal 1998 funds law enforcement, social services, land management, forestry services, education and other areas.

56. What other federal offices work with tribes? Just about all federal agencies work with Indian tribes. The Health and Human Services Department, for example, runs the Indian Health Services, which provides medical care on or near reservations. The Justice Department has the Office of Tribal Justice, which coordinates law enforcement in Indian country.

57. Do American Indians have the right to hold elective office? Indians have the same rights as all citizens, and have held most all levels of elective office. Charles Curtis, a member of the Kaw tribe, was vice president under Herbert Hoover. U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Republican from Colorado, is a member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe. Campbell also served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat.

58. Do Native Americans serve in the U.S. armed forces? Native Americans have Revolution, and one out of four Indian men is a U.S. military veteran. Their patriotism in World

War I led Congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. In World War II, Navajo Marines used their language as a code to transmit messages; it was the only code the enemy failed to break.

WHO REGULATES INDIAN CASINOS?

59. Who regulates Indian casinos? The National Indian Gaming Commission, established by Congress, oversees bingo operations, casinos and certain other types of gambling on tribal land. It sets rules for licensing, reviews yearly audits, and approves ordinances that tribes develop to run gaming operations. The U.S. Departments of Treasury, Justice and Interior have authority over aspects of Indian gaming. Indian nations, as well, have their own gaming commissions, tribal police forces and court systems.

60. What is the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act? The federal law requires states to enter into compacts with tribal governments that plan to engage in casino gambling, including slot machines and blackjack. Gaming must be conducted on tribal land, and the states' control is limited to the terms in the compacts. Compacts are approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

61. How much money do Indian gaming operators make each year? In 1997, they reported a total of \$6.4 billion in revenues. Not all tribes get rich, though. The General Accounting Office reports that nearly half of all revenue is earned by the six largest gaming tribes; the more successful operations are usually located in or near large metropolitan areas.

62. Is Indian gaming a major player in the gambling industry? Indian gaming is growing at a rapid pace, but represents only 8 percent of the revenue market share, according to the National Indian Gaming Association.

63. Do all tribes have casino gambling? No. Roughly a third of the 554 tribes have gaming operations, and many are limited to bingo.

64. Do the tribes pay taxes on their revenues? No. As sovereign governments they do not pay taxes on their revenues to the state or federal governments, though casino workers are generally subject to the same payroll and income taxes other Americans pay. States can assess fees to the tribes for costs of gambling regulation and administration. Some states, including Michigan, Connecticut and Washington, have formal arrangements with tribes to receive additional revenue.

65. Are individual tribes getting rich from casinos? While gaming has helped tribes such as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa

in Michigan stem poverty, Indians are the nation's poorest population. They rank at the bottom of most every social and economic measure.

66. Are individual Indians getting rich from casinos? The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act requires tribal governments to spend revenues on operations, welfare, economic development and charity. Once tribes meet those obligations they can seek permission from the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to set up a per-capita distribution plan to benefit individual members. Forty-seven tribes have approval to do so.

67. Why are Indian casinos a popular enterprise among the tribes? Gambling is an accepted tradition that figured in celebrations and ceremonies long before European settlement. With many reservations in distant and remote areas, gaming seems to be one of the few viable sources of employment and revenue.

68. Do all American Indians favor gaming? No. Some argue that the gambling operations hurt their culture, and that tribes with casinos show less interest in traditional ways and religious functions.

WHAT IS A TRIBAL SCHOOL?

69. What is a tribal school? Since the early 1800s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs assumed responsibility for the education of children on reservations through Indian schools. In 1978, the federal government began turning over school control to the tribes, while still providing oversight and funding. Today the bureau funds or operates 187 schools with 50,000 students.

70. How many American Indian Students attend public schools off the reservations?

About 480,000 American Indian children attend public schools off reservations. Some states with large populations of Indian schoolchildren provide funds for Indian language and cultural education.

71. How many American Indians are high school graduates? In 1990, 66 percent of American Indians who were at least 25 years old were high school graduates, according to the U.S. Census. The national figure is 75 percent.

72. What is a tribal college? Thirty tribal colleges were developed over the past 25 years to meet the unusual educational needs of students on reservations, often located in remote areas unserved by other post-secondary schools. Most of the colleges are two-year schools that focus on local economic development and work-force training.

73. How do graduation rates for American Indians compare with the general population? College graduation rates are lower for American

Indians than any other minority group, according to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Only 30 percent of American Indian students completed bachelor's degree within six years of enrolling, compared with 54 percent of all students.

74. What percentage of the American Indian population holds degrees? Nine percent of American Indian adults had completed four years of college, according to the 1990 U.S. Census. The national average for all adults is 20 percent. Graduation rates vary greatly among tribes.

75. Do Native Americans get a free college education? No. While some tribes offer stipends or scholarships to members, Native Americans as a group do not receive a free college education. But many students qualify for federal help and other needs-based aid, because they meet poverty guidelines for all students. Eighty-five percent of students at tribal colleges live in poverty.

76. How are tribal colleges funded? The 1981 Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act provides operational funds for 25 tribal colleges. All of the colleges receive support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as land-grant institutions, and from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, they may receive competitive grants, foundation money and private support. But the colleges receive little or no state funds, and are not supported through property taxes as are many mainstream community colleges.

DO AMERICAN INDIANS SPEAK THEIR OWN LANGUAGE?

77. Do American Indians speak their own language? The vast majority of Indians speak English as their main language, though some know their native language as well. When Europeans first arrived here about 350 Indian languages were spoken.

78. How many American Indian languages are still spoken? The precise number is unknown. It is estimated that about 200 languages are spoken. Native American languages are classified geographically rather than linguistically, since they do not belong to a single linguistic family, as the Indo-European languages do.

79. Which are the most common languages? There is no standard American Indian language, but a number are spoken regularly by the larger tribes, such as Navajo (spoken by 80,000) and Ojibwe (spoken by 40,000).

80. Were there written Indian languages? Before European settlement in North America, Indian writing was in pictographs, such as the

birchbark scrolls inscribed by the Ojibwe. Exposure to written European languages, including their direct study, resulted in several groups developing their own forms of writing.

81. American Indian languages continuing to die out? Yes. More than a third are spoken only by elders and may not survive to the next generation, according to “The Handbook of North American Indians: Language.” Some languages are known to just two or three speakers.

82. What is being done to preserve American Indian languages? Tribes have written language books and have created teaching tools for Indian schools. Some languages are taught in universities. In cases where the number of speakers has dwindled, language may ultimately die out.

IS THERE AN AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGION?

83. Is there an American Indian religion? Many Native Americans believe in a Great Spirit that reveals itself, through nature and influences all life. Indigenous religions also are filled with lesser spirits that inhabit the everyday world. In the 19th century Native Americans lost many of their religious customs as colonists forced them to convert to Christianity, sent their children to mission schools and banned some of their ceremonies.

84. How many American Indians identify themselves as Christians? In the 1990s, more than two-thirds of Native Americans characterize themselves at least nominally as Christians. Others combine Christian beliefs with their native religions or practice two separate faiths.

85. Are Native Americans free to practice their native religion? Until the 1930s, the United States tried to ban Native American religious rituals, including the Ghost Dance, Sun Dance and peyote cult. In 1978, Congress passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, an official expression of goodwill toward Native American spirituality. Many religious practices once considered on the verge of disappearing were revived. These include pipe ceremonials, sweat lodges, vision quests and Sun Dances.

86. Where do Native Americans go to worship? In many types of Native American spirituality, followers do not consider their practices a religion, nor do they rely on an institution to worship. Instead their beliefs are an integral part of daily life. Prayers have taken a variety of forms, including songs and dances and acts such as sprinkling tobacco or corn meal.

87. What is a sweat lodge? Much like a sauna, sweat lodges are heated by fire or by pouring water over hot stones. Sweat lodges are used by

some Native Americans to induce sweating for medicinal and spiritual purposes.

88. What is a vision quest? In some traditional native religions, Indian boys performed certain rituals, including meditation and fasting, in order to receive a vision to guide them into manhood and for the rest of their lives. Sometimes they separated from the tribe and entered the wilderness to seek a guardian spirit.

89. How does tobacco figure in American Indian religion? Tobacco has been regarded as the most sacred plant, used in Indian religion, medicine and diplomacy. Smoking at gatherings was a symbol of hospitality. Sharing a pipe sealed treaties, and sprinkling leaves ensured a good harvest. Ritualistic use of tobacco continues today.

90. Did Native Americans learn about tobacco from white settlers? On the contrary, Native peoples introduced tobacco and the pipe to white explorers. Native Americans had been smoking tobacco for a thousand years or more by the time Columbus returned to Spain with some leaves, and its use spread across Europe.

WHAT IS A PEACE PIPE?

91. What is a peace pipe? When various tribes dominated North America, carrying a pipe was evidence of peaceful intent, a passport universally honored, according to “A Guide to America’s Indians.” White explorers carried “peace pipes” for chance meetings with Indians.

92. Why is an eagle feather significant to American Indians? Certain symbols including the eagle feather, seem to be universal in their importance to the various tribes. The eagle is revered for its strength, size and intelligence. Its feathers are used in religious ceremonies.

93. How do American Indians obtain the feathers of a protected bird like the eagle? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers a program that makes the feathers available to Indian religious practitioners. The feathers are from eagles that die naturally or by accident.

94. What is a medicine bundle? It is a collection of objects believed to heal disease and ward off enemies. Traditionally, individuals, households and villages kept medicine bundles for self-protection. The bundles might contain herbs, stone, pollen, horns, bone, teeth and feathers.

95. Why do Native Americans object to the use of Indian symbols, like feathers and face paint, in U.S. sports? Many Native Americans believe the use of Indian symbols by sports teams and fans trivializes their way of life. For example, some Native Americans take offense when fans paint their faces at football games. In traditional native

cultures, face painting is reserved for sacred ceremonies that include weddings and funerals.

96. What is a powwow? Powwow comes from the Narragansett word for shaman. It is a celebration and social gathering, honoring sacred Indian traditions through dancing, drumming, singing and the gathering of people. Powwows may be held to honor an individual or for a special occasion. Most commonly, the powwow is a social event.

97. Are non-Natives welcome at powwows? There are ceremonial powwows that are closed to non-tribal members, but everyone is welcome at a publicized powwow.

98. What are teepees? The teepee, or tipi, was a dwelling used by nomadic Plains tribes. Made from buffalo hides, it was stretched over a cone formed by poles, which made it strong and easy to move. Similar to the teepee, the wickiup was used by tribes in the south. It was made from brush secured over arched poles. The wigwam of the eastern woodlands was a domed or conical frame covered with bark or mats. The traditional dwellings are no longer used as shelters.

99. Why do American Indians object to the commercial use of the Crazy Horse name? Many Indians believe that using Crazy Horse to sell malt liquor exploits Indians and distorts the image of a revered leader. Crazy Horse was the Sioux leader who militarily resisted the encroachment of whites in the Black Hills of South Dakota and joined Sitting Bull in the defeat of Gen. George A. Custer at Little Bighorn in 1876. Crazy Horse was unarmed when he was stabbed to death, while being held at a federal prison camp.

100. How can a person trace his or her Indian ancestry? The first step is basic genealogical research to obtain specific information on ancestors’ names, birth dates, marriages and deaths, and places where they lived. The next step is to find out if ancestors are on official tribal rolls. For information, write to the National Archives and Records Administration, Natural Resources Branch, Civil Archives Division, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20408. After determining tribal heritage, individuals should contact individual tribes to learn about membership. Tribes have the final determination on who qualifies.

CREDITS

Concept: Created and developed by Reginald Stuart, Knight Ridder Inc.; researched and written by Linda Fullerton, St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The questions and answers were prepared with the assistance of Elizabeth Homer (Osage of Oklahoma) director of the Office of American Indian Trust; Eric B. Wilson (Nez Perce of Idaho), program analyst, Office of American Indian Trust; Thomas Sweeney (Citizen Potawatomi of Oklahoma), public affairs chief, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Iris Friday (Tlingit of Alaska), publications editor and development director, National Congress of American Indians; National Indian Gaming Association; American Indian Higher Education Consortium; Labriola National American Indian Data Center, American Indian Movement.

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EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INDIAN TRIBES

1. Who is American Indian?

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Many anthropologists believe that Indians traveled about 35,000 years ago across a land bridge spanning the Bering Strait from Asia to North America. Most tribes have their own creation story. Many believe that Native people originated on this continent.

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Indigenous people in the United States were first referred to as Indians because Columbus believed he had reached East Indies when he touched the shores of North America. Today, many people prefer to call themselves American Indians to avoid stereotypes associated with "Indian."

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Either term is generally acceptable, although individuals may have a preference. Native American was first used in the United States for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

5. How many American Indians and Alaska Natives are there?

There are 2.3 million, according to U.S. Census estimates for 1997. They represent only roughly one percent of the population. (This number is expected to increase after the Census 2000 is complete.) Before Europeans arrived in North America, Native Americans may have numbered as many as 10 million. By the time colonists began keeping records, the population was substantially less, ravaged by war, famine, forced labor, and disease. Also, there are many different tribal populations in Canada as well as the United States.

6. Are Native Hawaiians considered American Indians?

No, Native Hawaiians trace their lineage and language to Polynesians, including Tahitians, Maoris, and Samoans. Starting in 2000, the federal government will recognize Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders as a distinct group. Native Hawaiians often unite with Native Americans over issues of self-governance and self-determination.

7. What is a tribe?

Originally, tribes were a society of people bound by blood ties, family relations, and common language. They also had their own

religion and political system. When members of different tribes were forced to live together on reservations, some new tribal groupings were formed.

8. How many tribes are there?

In 1998, there were 554 federally recognized tribes in the United States, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This includes 226 villages in Alaska.

9. Ok, there are a lot of different tribes. But aren't American Indians pretty much the same as a group?

Indian tribes are all different, just as for example, the Irish and Italian. Individual tribes have their own culture, language, and tradition. Many groups may be strangers to one another. Some were once enemies.

10. Which is the largest tribe?

With a 1990 population of 208,132, Cherokees are the largest U.S. tribe. Most live in Oklahoma, though more than 5,000 Cherokees live on their reservation in North Carolina.

11. Are Indian tribes and Indian nations the same?

Yes. The federally recognized tribes are considered self-governing – or sovereign nations – by Congress. The federal government deals with tribes as political entities, not as person of a particular race.

12. Can any tribe be federally recognized?

A rigorous application process determines federal recognition. Many nations were recognized by treaty making in the 18th and 19th centuries, though several groups are petitioning for recognition today. In 1998,

there were 14 tribes under active consideration for recognition.

13. What powers do the tribes hold?

They have nationhood status, enjoying the power of government, except those expressly taken away by Congress or overruled by the Supreme Court. The United States recognized the tribes' right to form their own government, determine membership, administer justice, raise taxes, establish business, and exclude people from reservations.

14. What is tribal council?

The tribe's governing body is usually referred to as the tribal council, and is elected by the adult members of the tribe. Heading the council is one elected chairperson, president, chief, or governor who is the recognized leader. The council performs the legislative aspects of tribal government.

15. Are reservations and tribal governments the same?

No. Tribal governments existed long before reservations were established. However, governing authority on reservations is the tribal council. In cases where different tribes share a reservation, they often separate governments, as the Shoshone and Arapaho do in Wyoming.

16. What is a reservation?

Indian reservations are areas of land reserved by the federal government as permanent tribal homelands. Today, there are 314 reservations.

17. Why is it called a reservation?

The term originates from the federal government's act of reserving land for federal purposes. In the United States, there are two kinds of reservations: Indian and military.

18. Do all American Indians live on reservations?

No. More than 50 percent live away from reservations, according to Census reports.

19. How much land do American Indians hold?

About 56 million acres in reservations and trust land. The Navajo Reservation is the largest, numbering 16 million acres and occupying parts of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. Many smaller reservations are less than 1000 acres.

20. What is trust land?

Land held by the United States for the use and benefit of American Indian tribes. Virtually all trust land is located in or near reservations. Tribes also have the ability to purchase land and to petition the federal government to hold it in trust, protecting the land from encroachment and seizure.

21. What is Indian Country?

Indian Country is a legal term used in Title 18 of the U.S. Code. It broadly defines federal and tribal jurisdiction in crimes affecting Indian on reservations. But it also has popular usage, describing reservations and areas with American Indian populations.

22. What is tribal sovereignty?

Just like states, tribes have attributes of sovereignty - to govern their own territory and internal affairs. The status of tribes as self-governing nations is affirmed and upheld by treaties, case law and the Constitution. Legal scholars explain that tribes are inherently sovereign, meaning they do not trace their existence to the United States.

23 What is the government-to-government relationship?

It is a federal (and sometimes state) policy expressing how the United States interact

with tribes. It requires the United States to assess federal actions affecting Indian tribes and to consult with tribes about those actions.

24. How are Tribes exercising their status as sovereign nations?

In New Mexico, for example, the Isleta Pueblo tribe is requiring the city of Albuquerque to abide by its water claim standards, which are stricter and costlier than state requirements. In the Pacific Northwest, tribes partner with state and federal governments to co-manage fisheries and protect salmon stock.

25. What is sovereign immunity?

It is the ability of a government to define the terms on which they can be sued. Tribes have invoked sovereign immunity in suits that challenge their authority to regulate land use. There have been recent efforts in Congress to regulate sovereign immunity.

26. What are treaties?

From 1777 to 1871, U.S. relations with the Indian nations were negotiated through legally binding agreements called treaties. These treaties, or agreements, between tribal governments and the United States transferred and created property rights as well as service obligations.

27. What agreements did the treaties contain?

The treaties often promised the Indian protection, good, services, self-governing rights and tribal homeland in exchange for their cooperation and vast acres of land.

28. What does the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) do?

The Bureau is the principal federal agency working with tribes. Its job is to provide services and/or funds for services to benefit tribal members. Unlike the 1800s, when the Bureau was in the War Department, the

Bureau's stated goal is to help tribes with self-determination. Almost 100 percent of its employees are tribal members.

29. How does someone qualify for BIA services?

Persons must belong to a federally recognized tribe.

30. Do Native Americans serve in the Armed Forces?

Native Americans have fought in all American wars since the Revolution, and one out of four Indian men is a U.S. military veteran. Their patriotism in World War I led Congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. In World War II, Navajo Marines used their language as a code to transmit messages: it was the only code the enemy failed to break.

31. Who regulates Indian Casinos?

The National Indian Gaming Commission, established by Congress, oversees bingo operations, casinos and certain other types of gambling on tribal land. It sets rules for licensing, reviews yearly audits, and approves ordinances that tribes develop to run gaming operations. The U.S. departments of Treasury, Justice, and Interior have authority over aspects of Indian gaming. Indian nations, as well as their own gaming commissions, tribal police forces, and court systems.

32. What is the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act?

The federal law requires states to enter into compacts with tribal governments that plan to engage in casino gambling, including slot machines and blackjack. Gaming must be conducted on tribal land, and the states' control is limited to the terms of the compacts. Compacts are approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

33. Is Indian gaming a major player in the gambling industry?

Indian gaming is growing at a rapid pace, but represents only 8 percent of the revenue market share, according to the National Indian Gaming Association.

34. Do all tribes have casino gambling?

No. Roughly one-third of the 554 tribes have gaming operations, and may be limited to bingo.

35. What is a tribal school?

Since early 1800s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs assumed responsibility for the education of children on reservations through Indian schools. In 1978, the federal government began turning over school control to the tribes, while still providing funding. Today, the Bureau funds or operates 187 schools with 50,000 students.

36. How many American Indian students attend public schools off the reservations?

About 480,000 American Indian children attend public schools off reservations. Some states with large populations of Indian schoolchildren provide funds for Indian language and cultural education.

37. Do American Indians speak their own language?

The vast majority of Indian speak English as their main language, though some know their Native language as well. When Europeans first arrived some 350 Indian languages were spoken.

38. How many Indian languages are still spoken?

The precise number is unknown. It is estimated that about 200 languages are spoken.

39. Which are the most common languages?

There is no standard American Indian language, but a number are spoken regularly by the larger tribes, such as Navajo (spoken by 80,000) and Ojibwe (spoken by 40,000).

40. Is there an American Indian religion?

Many Native Americans believe in the Great Spirit that reveals itself through nature and influences all life. Indigenous religions also are filled with lesser spirits that inhabit the everyday world. In the 19th century, Native Americans lost many of their religious customs as colonists forced them to convert to Christianity, sent children to mission schools, and banned some of their ceremonies.

41. How does tobacco figure in American Indian religion?

Tobacco has been regarded as a most sacred plant, used in American Indian religion, medicine, and diplomacy. Smoking at gatherings was a symbol of hospitality. Sharing a pipe sealed treaties, and sprinkling leaves ensured a good harvest. Ritualistic use of tobacco continues today.

42. Did Native Americans learn about tobacco from white settlers?

On the contrary, Native peoples introduced tobacco and the pipe to white explorers. Native Americans had been smoking tobacco for a thousand years or more by the time Columbus returned to Spain with some leaves, and its use spread across Europe.

43. What is a peace pipe?

When various tribes dominated North America, carrying a pipe was evidence of peaceful intent, a passport universally honored.

44. Why is the eagle feather significant to American Indians?

Certain symbols including the eagle feather, seem to be universal in their importance to Indian tribes. The eagle is revered for its strength, size, and intelligence. Its feathers are used in religious ceremonies.

45. How do American Indians obtain feathers of a protected bird like the eagle?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers a program that makes the feathers available to Indian religious practitioners. The feathers are from eagles that die naturally or by accident.

46. Why do Native Americans object to the use of Indian symbols, like feathers and face paint, in U.S. sports?

Many Native Americans believe that the use of Indian symbols by sports teams and fans trivializes their way of life. For example, some Native Americans take offense when fans paint their faces at football and baseball games. In traditional Native cultures, face-painting is reserved for sacred ceremonies that include weddings and funerals.

47. What is a pow-wow?

Pow-wow comes from the Narragansett word for Shaman. It is a celebration and social gathering honoring sacred Indian traditions through dancing, drumming, singing and gathering of people. Pow-wows may be held to honor an individual or a special occasion. Most commonly, a pow-wow is a social event.

48. Are Non-Natives welcome at pow-wows?

There are ceremonial pow-wows that are closed to non-members, but everyone is welcome at publicized pow-wow, or a tribe's annual pow-wow.

49. What is a sweat lodge?

Sweat lodges are used by some Native Americans to induce sweating for spiritual

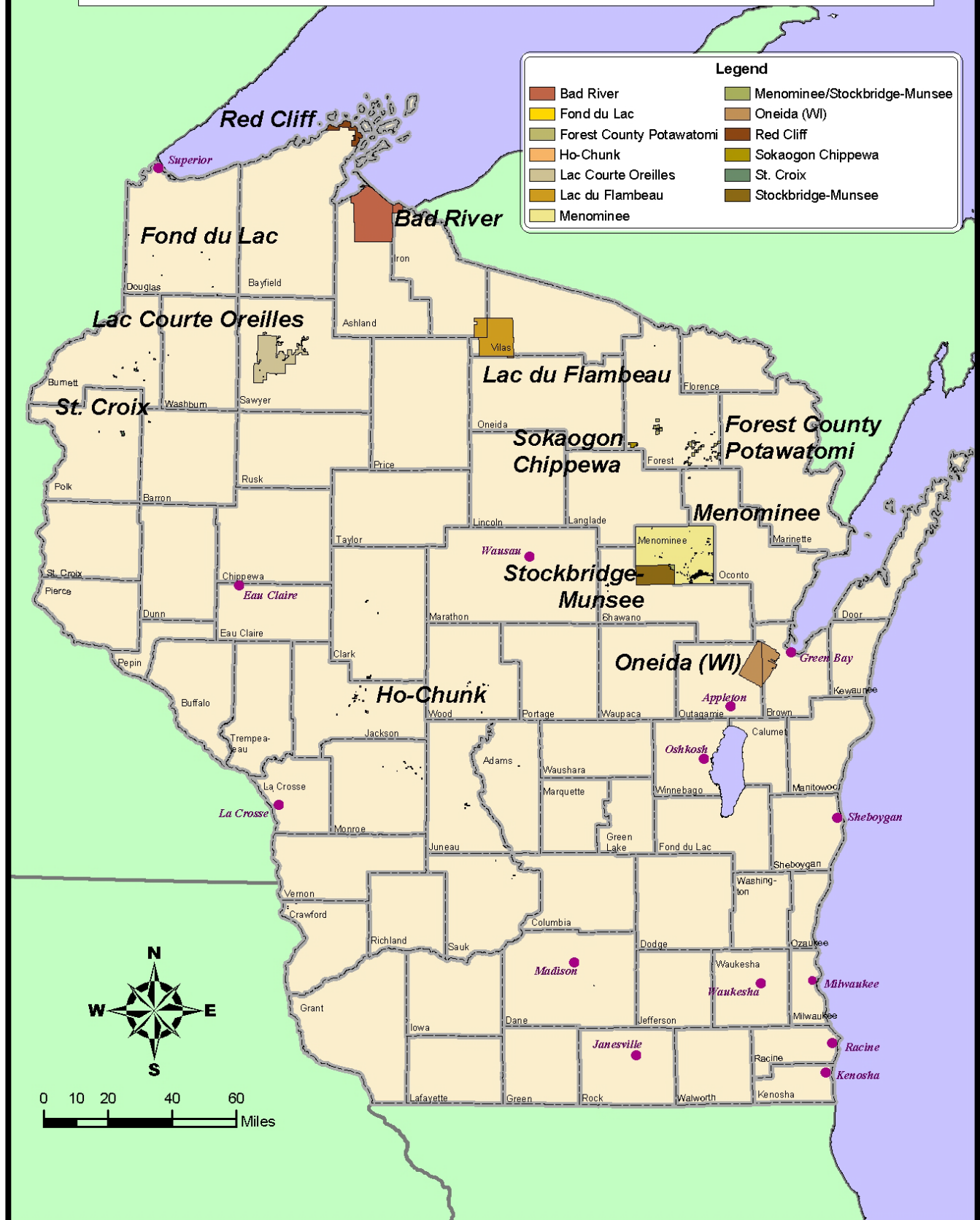
or medicinal purposes. Sweat lodges are heated by fire or by pouring water over hot stones. A sweat ceremony is very sacred to Native peoples.

50. How can a person trace his or her Indian Ancestry?

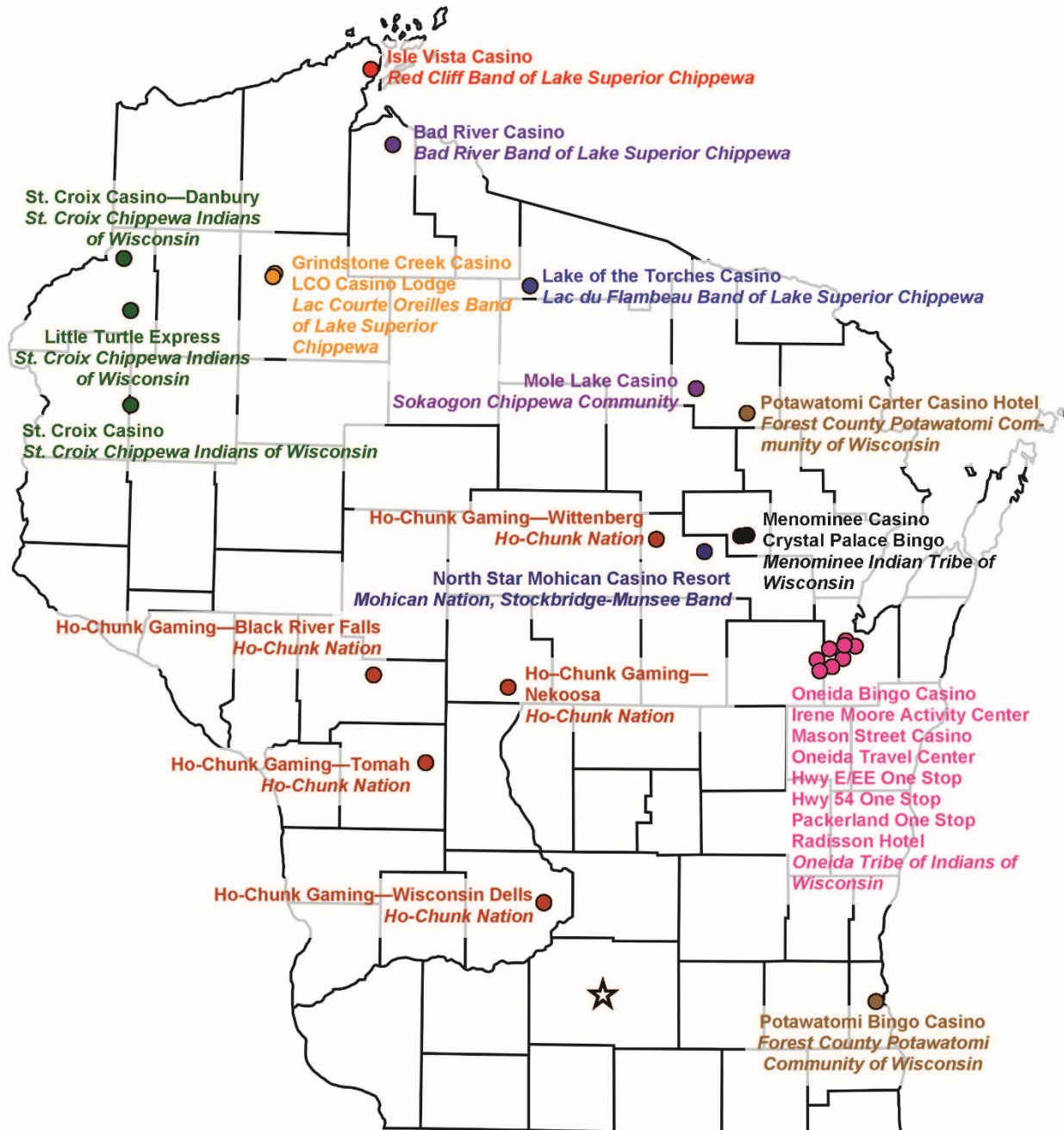
The first step is basic genealogical research to obtain specific information on ancestor's names, birth dates, marriages and deaths, and places where they lived. The next step is to find out if these ancestors are on any official tribal rolls. After determining tribal heritage, should contact individual tribes to learn about membership. Tribes have the final determination on who qualifies.

Reprinted from: The Grand Ronde Tribes newspaper The Smoke Signal and A Reporters Guide to Native American.

Wisconsin's American Indian Reservation and Trust Lands



WISCONSIN TRIBAL GAMING OPERATIONS NOVEMBER 2010



PRIMARY CASINOS

BAD RIVER CASINO

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Hwy 2, P.O. Box 8, Phone: (715) 682 7121
Odanah, WI 54861 FAX: (715) 682-7149
(Ashland County)

HO-CHUNK GAMING – WISCONSIN DELLS

Ho-Chunk Nation
S3214A Hwy 12, Phone: (608) 356-6210
Baraboo, WI 53913 Fax: (608) 355-4035
(Sauk County)

HO-CHUNK GAMING – BLACK RIVER FALLS

Ho-Chunk Nation
Hwy 54 E W9010, Phone: (715) 284-9098
Black River Falls, WI 54615 Fax: (715) 284-9739
(Jackson County)

HO-CHUNK GAMING - NEKOOSA

Ho-Chunk Nation
949 County Road G, Phone: (715) 886-4560
Nekoosa, WI 54457 Fax: (715) 886-4551
(Wood County)

ISLE VISTA CASINO

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
88705 Pine Tree Lane
P.O. Box 1167, Hwy 13, Phone: (715) 779-3712
Bayfield, WI 54814 Fax: (715) 779-3715
(Bayfield County)

LAC COURTE OREILLES CASINO, LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
13767 W. County Road B, Phone: (715) 634-5643
Hayward, WI 54843-4184 Fax: (715) 634-8110
(Sawyer County)

LAKE OF THE TORCHES CASINO

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
510 Old Abe Road, Phone: (715) 588-7070
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538 Fax: (715) 588-9508
(Vilas County)

MASON STREET CASINO

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Phone: (920) 497-2242
2370 W. Mason Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
(Brown County)

MENOMINEE NATION CASINO, BINGO & HOTEL

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 760, Phone: (800) 343-7778
Keshena, WI 54135 (715) 799-3600
(Menominee County) Fax: (715) 799-1325

MENOMINEE BINGO CRYSTAL PALACE (across parking lot from casino)

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 1150, Phone: (800) 343-7778
Keshena, WI 54135 Fax: (715) 799-4171
(Menominee County)

MOLE LAKE CASINO

Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
3084 State Hwy 55
PO Box 277, Phone: (715) 478-7562
Crandon, WI 54520 Fax: (715) 478-7547
(Forest County)

NORTH STAR MOHICAN CASINO RESORT

Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians
W12180 County Road A, Phone: (715) 793-4090
Bowler, WI 54416 Fax: (715) 787-3129
(Shawano County)

ONEIDA BINGO & CASINO

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
2020 Airport Drive, Phone: (800) 238-4263
Green Bay, WI 54304 Fax: (920) 496-2019
(Brown County)

**ONEIDA IRENE MORE ACTIVITY CENTER (IMAC)
(Across parking lot from Oneida Bingo & Casino)**

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
2100 Airport Drive, Phone: (800) 238-4263
Green Bay, WI 54313
(Brown County)

POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO

Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin
1721 West Canal, Phone: (414) 645-6888
Milwaukee, WI 53233 Fax: (414) 645-6866
(Milwaukee County)

POTAWATOMI CARTER CASINO HOTEL

Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin
Hwy 32 North, Phone: (715) 473-2021
Carter, WI 54566 Fax: (715) 473-6104
(*Forest County*)

ST. CROIX CASINO & HOTEL

St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
777 Hwy 8/63, Phone: (800) 846-8946
Turtle Lake, WI 54889 (715) 986-4777
(*Barron County*) Fax: (715) 986-2877

ST. CROIX CASINO - DANBURY

St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Highway 35 & 77
P.O. Box 98, Phone: (800) 238-4946
Danbury, WI 54830 (715) 656-3444
(*Burnett County*) Fax: (715) 656-3178

ANCILLARY LOCATIONS

GRINDSTONE CREEK CONVENIENCE & CASINO

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
13394 W. Trepania Road, Phone: (715) 634-2430
Hayward, WI 54843
(Sawyer County)

HO-CHUNK GAMING - WITTENBERG

Ho-Chunk Nation
N7217 US Highway 45, Phone: (715) 253-4400
Wittenberg, WI 54499 Fax: (715) 253-3677
(Shawano County)

HO-CHUNK GAMING - TOMAH

Ho-Chunk Nation Phone: (608) 372-3721
27867 Highway 21 Fax: (608) 372-4162
Tomah, WI 54660
(Monroe County)

LITTLE TURTLE HERTEL EXPRESS CONVENIENCE & CASINO

St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
4384 State Road 70, Phone: (715) 349-5655
Hertel, WI 54845 Fax: (715) 349-5538
(Burnett County)

ONEIDA ONE-STOP

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Phone: (920) 869-1222
County Road E & County Road EE
Oneida, WI 54155
(Outagamie County)

ONEIDA ONE-STOP

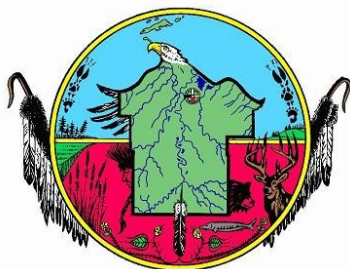
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Phone: (920) 869-2228
W180 State Highway 54
Oneida, WI 54155
(Outagamie County)

ONEIDA TRAVEL CENTER

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Phone: (920) 865-7919
County Road U & Highway 29
Oneida, WI 54155
(Outagamie County)

ONEIDA ONE-STOP PACKERLAND Phone: (800) 238-4263

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
3120 S Packerland Drive
Ashwaubenon, WI 54313
(Brown County)



Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
Phone: 715-682-7111
Fax: 715-682-7118
Website: www.badriver-nsn.gov www.badriver.com
www.facebook.com/badrivergovt

Liz Arbuckle, Chair
Patrick Bigboy, Vice Chair
Michelle Connors, Treasurer
Laura Miranda, Secretary

Council Members:

Aurora Conely, Senior Council Member
Peter Powless, Senior Council Member
Pete Bigboy, Junior Council Member

Location: Ashland and Iron Counties, northern Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 6,945 Bad River tribal members

The Bad River Reservation totals 124,655 acres

- 57,884 (46.4%) acres are tribally owned
- 34,051 (27.3) acres are considered fee land
- 26,813 (21.5%) acres are considered other fee land
- 2,970 (2.3%) are considered municipal

The Bad River tribe is the largest employer in Ashland County (*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*), employing approximately 482 people.

Tribal Government

The Bad River tribe is governed by a seven-member Council

- The Council meets monthly
- Decision-making is by majority rule and the chairman only votes in the event of a tie
- Elections are held annually with four positions up for election one year and three the following year

Brief History

The Bad River Reservation in northwestern Wisconsin is the largest Chippewa reservation in the state. The reservation boundaries include lands in Ashland and Iron counties, 17 miles of Lake Superior shoreline and over 100 miles of rivers and streams. The Bad River Reservation is 124,655 acres of primarily undeveloped and wilderness land, of which 57,884 acres are in trust. Odanah, the Ojibwe word for town, is the main village and the seat of government for the tribe. Odanah is located ten miles east of Ashland on U.S. Highway 2. The band enjoys both on and off-reservation (ceded territory) hunting, fishing, and gathering rights as recognized in the Treaty of 1854 and *LCO et al v. Voight*, 700 F2.342 (7th Cir. 1983).

The Chippewa (also known as the Ojibwe or Anishinabe) Indians of present-day Wisconsin are the descendants of a northern Algonquian people who originally lived in an extensive area mainly north of lakes Superior and Huron. They began migrating across the Great Lakes region long before Europeans arrived. As the European fur trade penetrated into the Great Lakes region, the Chippewa moved from the backwoods and upriver areas and established villages at points of trade.

Soon after the organization of the new territory, a land cession treaty was signed that secured approximately half of the present state of Wisconsin from the Chippewa, Sioux, and Winnebago Indians. Officials sought the land cession to enable lumbering on a large scale along eastern tributaries of the Mississippi River. The land cession treaty of 1837 provided legal access to these lands.

After lumbering began, reports of copper deposits along the shores of Lake Superior led federal officials to push for new land cessions from the Chippewa Indians. Following the treaty of 1842, copper mining boomed and the region led the world in copper production by 1890.

The Treaty of 1854 finalized the ceding of the land south of Lake Superior. The treaty also established reservations for various bands, including Bad River, located on the south shore of Lake Superior and Madeline Island. The influx of white settlers progressively displaced the Chippewa from their traditional use of the ceded lands.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- One chief, one sergeant and three officers
- Cross-deputized to serve on tribal land and in Ashland County in conjunction with the Ashland County Sheriff's Department
- Funded primarily with tribal funds, discretionary federal grants, and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance grant funds

Court System

- Four judges
- Must be admitted to the tribal bar to practice
- The Bad River Court System handles cases such as child welfare, divorces, and conservation violations
- Funded by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and tribal funds

Education

- Youth are educated by the Ashland School District (480 students/21% of the student population). *Source: Ashland School District.*

One tribal school:

- Head Start facility currently educates 59 children

Healthcare

- Clinic provides general practice services
- Funded by tribal funds, Indian Health Service and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

Social Services

- Day care
- Domestic abuse counseling and assistance
- Indian Child Welfare Act programs
- Funded through a variety of sources including tribal and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

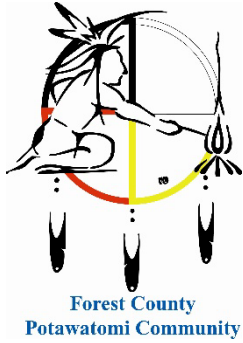
- Non-tribal members can take advantage of some of the social service programs offered

Economic Enterprises

- Enterprises are all located in Ashland County
- Bad River employs approximately 482 people

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>
Bad River Odanah, WI	Lodging
Bad River Casino Odanah, WI	Gaming
Moccasin Trail IGA Odanah, WI	Grocery store
Moccasin Trail Conoco Odanah, WI	Gasoline/light grocery





Forest County Potawatomi Community

P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520
Phone: 800-960-5479 or 715-478-7200
Fax: 715-478-5280
Website: www.fcpotawatomi.com
www.facebook.com/fcpotawatomi

Executive Council

Brooks Boyd Sr., Chair
Ken George Jr., Vice Chair
Joseph Daniels Jr., Treasurer
Alexandria McCorkle, Secretary
Destinee Alloway, Council Member
Herb Daniels, Council Member

Location: Forest and Milwaukee Counties, Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Forest County Potawatomi Community

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are roughly 1,400 FC Potawatomi tribal members.

The Potawatomi Reservation, located primarily in Forest County, totals 12,000 acres.

- 9,000 acres are trust land
- 3,000 acres are fee land
- There are also seven acres of trust land in the City of Milwaukee
- Approximately 531 tribal members live on reservation, trust, or fee land (Source: *US Census Bureau*)
- Additionally, large numbers of tribal members live in the Milwaukee area

The Potawatomi are the largest employer in Forest County and among the largest in Milwaukee County. Approximately 700 of the Tribe's 2,700 employees work in Forest County. (Source: *Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*)

Tribal Government

The Potawatomi are governed by a General Council and an Executive Council.

- The General Council meets four times per year.
 - Made up of all eligible voting tribal members
 - Elects the Executive Council
 - Creates ordinances, adopts resolutions, employs legal counsel, manages property, etc.
- Executive Council meets monthly.
 - Includes chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer and two council members
 - Consults and negotiates with federal, state and local governments and corporations; manages financial affairs, etc.
 - All Executive Council actions are subject to review and approval by the General Council
 - Decisions are made by a majority rule
 - Terms are staggered.

The annual election of those three (3) officers whose terms expire at the Executive Council meeting in November shall be held on the Saturday prior to the regular Executive Council meeting in November.

Officers and members of the Executive Council shall be elected for a term of two (2) years or until his or her successor is duly elected and installed.

Brief History

The Potawatomi are Algonquin, a European term based upon linguistics, and Neshnabek, a Potawatomi word that means "original people." The Potawatomi were part of a confederacy with the Ojibwa (Chippewa) and Odawa (Ottawa) Indian tribes. This group was known as the Council of the Three Fires.

At the time of first contact by the Europeans, the Potawatomi people were living in what is today lower Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. To the west of Lake Michigan, the Potawatomi land base extended from Illinois to Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The Potawatomi signed 42 treaties with the United States government which is more than any other tribe. Below is a summary of the most notable treaties as well as other historical events:

- In 1795, the first of many treaties which took Potawatomi lands, was signed in Ohio.
- In 1830, the Indian Removal Act passed under President Jackson. This act forced all Indians living east of the Mississippi River to move to Indian Territory in the west.
- In 1833, the Potawatomi lost all of their land east of the Mississippi River in the Treaty of Chicago. This treaty took 5,000,000 acres of Potawatomi land.
- During this period, the U.S. military rounded up many of the Potawatomi and forcibly removed them from traditional lands. These Potawatomi people eventually settled in Kansas and Oklahoma.
- Groups of Potawatomi refused removal and fled into Wisconsin, Michigan, and Canada.
- Around 1880, a group of Potawatomi settled in an area near Blackwell and Wabeno in Forest County. This group was the origin of the Forest County Potawatomi Community.
- In 1913, the Forest County Potawatomi Community was officially recognized and made its initial land purchases to establish a reservation.
- In 1937, the Forest County Potawatomi Community formally adopted a new form of government. A constitution and bylaws were adopted that provided for a tribal chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and two councilmen.
- In 1982, a second Forest County Potawatomi constitution and bylaws were signed, which superceded the original 1937 constitution.
- In 1988, the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was approved. This act allowed for the operation of gaming by Indian tribes on Indian lands.
- In 1991, the Forest County Potawatomi Community opened Potawatomi Bingo in Milwaukee.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- The Potawatomi do not have a law enforcement office.

Court System

- The Potawatomi have an independent Tribal Court.
- Cases include: Indian child welfare, adoptions, truancies, name changes, and limited small claims cases.

Education

- Potawatomi youth are educated in two primary school districts: Crandon and Wabeno.
- In the Crandon School District, there are 317 Native American students representing 31% of the student body.**
- In the Wabeno School District, there are 132 Native American students representing 21.8% of the student body.**

***Please note that these figures are total Native American student enrollment in these school districts, not exclusively Potawatomi students. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)*

Healthcare

- The Health and Wellness Center in Crandon provides: routine medical care, radiology, community health, pharmacy, dentistry, optical, speech therapy, massage therapy, physical therapy, smoking cessation, diabetes treatment, chiropractic, maternal health, and behavioral health services.
- Funded by Potawatomi, with some funds coming from the Indian Health Service and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- These services are open to all residents of Greater Forest County. It is estimated that 60% of the services provided are to non-Native Americans.

Social Services

- The Potawatomi provide the following social services: Head Start, youth counselors, tutoring programs, prenatal/postnatal programs, Choices Youth program, domestic violence program, elder advocate program, Community Cares, day care, family services programs.
- Funded through a variety of tribal, state and federal monies.

Economic Enterprises

- Potawatomi employs approximately 2,700 people
- There are 800 employees in Forest County.
 - 60% of those are non-native, 40% are Native American
- Milwaukee County (1,900 employees)
 - 91% are non-native, 9% are Native American

Business	Type of Business
Potawatomi Bingo & Casino Milwaukee, WI	Gaming
Northern Lights Casino Carter, WI	Gaming
Potawatomi Red Deer Ranch Laona, WI	Deer farm
Potawatomi Traveling Times Wabeno, WI	Newspaper
Indian Springs Lodge Carter, WI	Hotel and conference center

Potawatomi Convenience Store
Wabeno, WI

Gas station

Potawatomi Business Development Corporation
Brookfield, WI

Capital investment, real estate





Ho-Chunk Nation

Tribal Office Building
P.O. Box 667
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Phone: (715) 284-9343 / (800) 294-9343
Fax: (715) 284-2632
Website: www.ho-chunknation.com
www.facebook.com/HoChunkNation

Jon Greendeer, President
Lambert Cleveland, Vice President

Members of Tribal Legislature by Legislative Area:

District 1 - Phyllis Smoke (term exp 07/29)
Tracy Thundercloud (term exp 07/27)
Paul Fox (term exp 07/27)

District 2 - Damian Thundercloud (term exp 07/27)
Kyle White Eagle (term exp 07/29)
Stephanie Begay (term exp 07/29)

District 3 - Vice President Lambert Cleveland (term exp 07/27)
Shelby Visintin (term exp 07/27)
Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle (term exp 07/27)

District 4 - Edward Mullen (term exp 07/29)
David Greendeer (term exp 07/29)
Sandra Whitewing (term exp 07/29)

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Ho-Chunk Nation

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 6,563 Ho-Chunk tribal members (as of 9/21/10)

- 17 and under = 1,975
- Ages 18 - 64 = 4,795
- 64 and older = 3547

The Ho-Chunk Nation is not located on one continuous land base, such as a reservation, but has scattered communities and acreage.

- HCN Trust Land Acreage – 3,535
- HCN Fee Simple Acreage – 5,328
- Counties where HCN Trust Lands are located: Adams, Clark, Crawford, Dane, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Sauk, Shawano, Vernon & Wood Counties in Wisconsin and also in the State of Illinois.
- Additionally, large numbers of tribal members live in Minneapolis, Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago

Ho-Chunk Nation is the largest employer in both Sauk and Jackson County employing roughly 3100 people.

Tribal Government

The HCN is governed by a constitution that created four branches of government.

The HCN Constitution:

- Article IV, General Council retains the power to:
 - Set policy for the Nation
 - To review and reverse actions of the Legislature for legislative reconsideration
 - To review and reverse actions of the Judiciary, does not retain the power to review and reverse decisions
 - Propose amendments
 - To call for a Special Election
 - Actions by the General Council shall be binding
 - Annual meetings-all eligible voters at least 18 years old
 - Article V, Legislature retains the power to:
 - Make all laws, codes, ordinances, etc.
 - Establish all expenditures by law and appropriate funds
 - Set its own procedures
 - Acquire or purchase land
 - There are a total of 24 legislative powers
 - The HCN Legislature holds bi-monthly legislative meetings and monthly district meetings
 - Article VI, Executive Branch power:
-

- Is vested in the President of the Ho-Chunk Nation
- Composed of any administrative departments created by the legislature, at present consists of Administration, Business, Education, Health, and Social Services, Heritage Preservation, Housing, Justice, Personnel, and Treasury
- Powers of the President:
 - Execute and administer all laws of the Ho-Chunk Nation
 - Preside over meetings of the legislature
 - Cast a deciding vote
 - Call for Annual and Special Meetings of the General Council
 - Represent the Ho-Chunk Nation on all matters that concern its interest and welfare
- Article VII, Judiciary is composed of:
 - HCN Tribal Court-Chief Judge and Associate Judges
 - Traditional Court-traditional dispute resolutions, made up of Traditional Clan leaders
 - Supreme Court-Chief Justice and Associate Justices
- The judicial power of the HCN shall be vested in the Judiciary
- They have the power to interpret and apply the Constitution and laws of the Ho-Chunk Nation
- The Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary branch officials are all elected
- The terms of the president and legislature are four years and the chief justice of the Supreme Court has a six-year term. Terms are staggered

Brief History

In 1634, when the French explorer Jean Nicolet waded ashore at Red Banks, people of the Ho-Chunk Nation welcomed him. For some 360 years, this nation was labeled as the Winnebago Tribe by the French. In November 1994, the official results of the Ho-Chunk Nation secretarial election were published, approving the revised constitution and the proper name of the nation reverting to the Ho-Chunk (People of the Big Voice) which they have always called themselves, thus establishing the Ho-Chunk Nation. The exact size of the Ho-Chunk Nation was not historically documented at the time. However, their territory extended from Green Bay, beyond Lake Winnebago to the Wisconsin River and to the Rock River in Illinois, tribal territory was by the Treaty of 1825, 8.5 million acres.

While most people think of Native Americans as hunters or gatherers, the Ho-Chunk were also farmers. For example, their history tells of corn fields south of Wisconsin Dells, "that were as large as the distance covered when you shoot an arrow three times." They appreciated the bounty of the land we now call Wisconsin.

Their story is the story of a people who loved the land of Wisconsin. In the last 170 years they faced tremendous hardship and overcame long odds to live here. Their troubles began in the late 1820's when lead miners began to come into southwestern Wisconsin.

At that time, the U.S. Government recognized the Ho-Chunk as a sovereign nation and the fact that they held title to more than eight million acres of some of the finest land in America. Treaty commissioners, speaking for the United States, promised they would punish any whites going on recognized Ho-Chunk lands. However, the lure of lead and good farmland proved too great. Within ten years, the U.S. government reversed its

position. The Ho-Chunk were forced to sell their remaining lands at a fraction of its worth and were removed from Wisconsin.

First, the Ho-Chunk people were moved to northeastern Iowa. Within ten years (1846), they were moved to a wooded region of northern Minnesota. They were placed there as a barrier between warring Lakota and Ojibwe. As a result, the Ho-Chunk were victims of raids by both. At their request, they were to be moved to better land near the Mississippi River. European immigrants objected and before they could move, the U.S. Senate moved them further west. Within four years of their arrival (1859), the U.S. reduced their reservation from 18 square miles to nine square miles.

Four years later (1863), they were moved to a desolate reservation in South Dakota surrounded by Lakotas. The U.S. allowed the Ho-Chunk to exchange their South Dakota reservation for lands near the more friendly Omahas of Nebraska in 1865.

Throughout this time, many Ho-Chunk refused to live on the increasingly poor areas away from their abundant homelands in Wisconsin. Many returned to Wisconsin. The memories of living Ho-Chunk contain stories of their elders being rounded up at gunpoint, loaded into boxcars and shipped to "their reservation" in Nebraska. The Wisconsin Ho-Chunk do not have a reservation in Wisconsin, but portions of land that hold "reservation" status. Today, all Wisconsin Ho-Chunk tribal lands are lands they once owned, but have had to repurchase.

Services available to Tribal members

Housing – (608) 374-1225

- Home Ownership Program
- Property Management – tribally funded rental units for HCN members
- Ho-Chunk Housing Community Development Agency (HHCDA) – commonly known as HUD housing - (800) 236-2260

Education – (800) 362-4476

- Supportive Education Services – HCN youth are educated in four primary school districts: 1) Tomah; 2) Black River Falls; 3) Baraboo and 4) Wisconsin Dells
- Higher Education – post high school funding
- Head Start – Pre-kindergarten
- Johnson O'Malley

Labor – (800) 294-9343

- Tribal Employee Rights Ordinance (TERO) – certification of Indian preference for contracting and subcontracting; safety
- 477 Federal Program – supportive services; youth employment
 - Training – acquire/maintain certifications. Licenses; payment of ceu's training

Health Services - funded by HCN, Indian Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. HCN currently operates two tribal health care clinics in rural Black River Falls and Wisconsin Dells.

- Ho-Chunk Health Care Center, Black River Falls- (888)685-4422
- House of Wellness, Wisconsin Dells - (888) 559-5294
- Health Management
- Food Distribution Program

- Community Health Representatives
- Community Health Nurses
- At-Large Health Care
- Alcohol/Drug Program
- Environmental Health
- Benefit Coordinators
- Special Diabetes Programs for Indians
- Contract Health
- Mental Health Program

Social Services – Funded by HCN and the Wisconsin Department of Child and Family Services. Social Services operates in Black River Falls and Wisconsin Dells.

- Youth Services: (888)685-4422
 - After school programs, study time, recreational, cultural activities, youth leadership, community service
- Child and Family Services: (888)685-4422
 - Child protection, Indian Child Welfare, Kinship Care, Independent Living, Juvenile Justice, Elder Protection
- Community Support Services: (888)343-8190
 - Child care assistance, emergency assistance, life skills program, domestic abuse services, maternal child health, family services program.
- Tribal Aging Unit (TAU): (888)701-8284
 - Nutrition-meals, transportation, energy assistance, workshops, activities, field trips, coordinating community events
- Phone number for Wisconsin Dells House of Wellness Social Service Office: (888)555-7889

Veteran's Services - 715-284-4563

Personnel (800) 232-0086

- Employment Listings

Heritage Preservation

- Cultural Resources - (800) 561-9918
- Enrollment - (800) 331-7824
- Natural Resources (715) 284-2531
- Language Program - (800) 492-5745

Branch Offices

- Chicago - (773) 202-8433
- La Crosse (Three Rivers House) - (608) 783-6025
- Madison – (608) 277-9964
- Milwaukee – (414) 747-8680
- St. Paul – (651) 641-801
- Tomah – (608) 374-260
- Wisconsin Dells – (608) 356-4197
- Wisconsin Rapids/Nekoosa – (715) 886-5392
- Wittenberg – (715) 253-3847

Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Office and Legislature

(715) 284-9343 (800) 294-9343

Wa ehi hoci - Courts (800) 434-4070

Enterprises

Business	Type of Business
Ho-Chunk Casino, Hotel & Convention Center Wisconsin Dells/Baraboo, WI	Gaming/lodging/meeting facility entertainment
Majestic Pines Casino & Hotel Black River Falls, WI	Gaming/lodging facility
Rainbow Casino Nekoosa, WI	Gaming
DeJope Bingo Madison, WI	Gaming
Whitetail Crossing Casino Tomah, WI	Gaming, Ancillary Casino
Ho-Chunk North Casino Wittenberg	Gaming, Ancillary Casino
Crockett Resort and RV Park Lyndon Station Delton, WI	Campground/ Gas Station
Ho-Chunk Distribution Center Tomah, WI Wisconsin Dells, WI	Office & Cleaning Supplies
Ho-Chunk Theater Tomah, WI	Entertainment
Ni Si ni	Bottled Water
Da-Xu	Organic Coffee
Whitetail Crossing Baraboo, WI Black River Falls, WI Nekoosa, WI Tomah, WI Wittenberg, WI	Convenience/gas station



Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board
13394 West Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: 715-634-8934
Fax: 715-634-4797
Website: www.lcotribe.com
www.facebook.com/lcotribe

Gary "Little Guy" Clause, Chair
Bill Trepanier, Vice-Chair
Michelle Beaudin, Secretary/Treasurer

Council Members:

Jordan St. Germaine (term began 2025)
Don Carley (term began 2025)
Janet Quaderer (term began 2025)
Lorraine Gouge (term began 2025)

Location: Sawyer County, northwest Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 7,275 Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) tribal members.

- 17 and under = 1098
- Ages 18 - 64 = 5,360
- 65 and older = 817

The LCO Reservation, located mostly in Sawyer County, totals 76,465 acres; approximately 10,500 acres are lakes.

- 24,364.89 acres are tribally owned
- 23,652.26 acres are individually allotted
- 6,072.38 acres are considered fee land
- LCO has additional trust land located in Burnett County near Rice Lake and Washburn County near Rocky Ridge Lake
- Approximately 2,306 tribal members live on reservation, trust, or fee land along with 708 non-tribal members.
- Additionally, large numbers of tribal members live in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

LCO is the largest employer in Sawyer County (*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*), employing approximately 900 people.

Tribal Government

The LCO Tribal Governing Board is composed of seven members.

- A chairperson
- Vice-chairperson
- Secretary/treasurer
- Four council members
- The council meets weekly
- Decisions are made by a majority rule
- Elections are held in June every two years (every odd numbered year) for a four-year term. Terms are staggered

Brief History

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin historically occupied a vast territory within a 100 mile radius of the present location of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation located near Hayward, WI. The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) people are one band of the large Ojibwe Nation that originally occupied the upper eastern

woodlands area of the North American continent. The Treaty of 1854 established the LCO reservation.

In the years of 1825, 1837, and 1842, many bands of the Ojibwe Nation entered into sovereign treaties with the United States. In the treaties, the Ojibwe Nation ceded territories of land, which became a part of the United States and reserved unto themselves rights to use the land and its resources. In 1854, the Treaty of LaPointe established specific territorial rights of the LCO people including the right to hunt, fish, and gather in the northern third of Wisconsin. The off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights of the Ojibwe people were recognized in 1983 after years of litigation in Lac Courte Oreilles v. Voigt, 700 F.2d 341 (7th Cir. 1983). In addition to Wisconsin, off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights were subsequently established in the State of Minnesota in a similar treaty rights case involving a Minnesota tribe.

At the time the LCO reservation was established, the tribal elders wanted to protect certain resources that included wild rice beds and fishing areas on the Grindstone, Chief, and Lac Courte Oreilles Lakes. The land was also rich in timber stands of oak, conifer, maple, hickory, cedar, and birch. There were bountiful fishing sites on the Chippewa, Chief, and Couderay rivers as well as hunting and trapping areas for waterfowl, deer, bear, beaver, mink, muskrat, and other game. The Tribe also used historical water transportation routes via the Chippewa, Flambeau, and Namekagon rivers.

Although the tribe already had a traditional government that provided safety and welfare to its people, after years of resistance, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe adopted an Indian Reorganization Act Constitution in 1966. The constitution establishes a seven member Tribal Governing Board to make decisions on behalf of the LCO people on the areas of land, establishment of a tribal court, ordinances, contracts, agreements, governmental negotiations, tribal businesses, housing, etc. The constitution recognizes the sovereign immunity of the tribe along with jurisdiction within its territory on and off the reservation. The LCO Tribe is a federally recognized tribal government that exercises its rights of sovereignty and governance established by the treaties of 1825, 1837, 1842, and 1854 along with its constitution, initially adopted in 1966.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- Seven officers
- Cross-deputized with the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department
- Funded primarily with tribal funds, some discretionary federal grants, and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance funds

Court System

- One part-time judge and one magistrate
- Practitioners must be admitted to the tribal court bar
- Appeals consist of one law-trained judge from the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association (WTJA) followed by a 3-judge panel from the WTJA
- Attorneys and law advocates must be admitted to the tribal court.
- The court system handles the following civil cases – adoption, child custody, child welfare, adult and minor guardianships, conservation, traffic, ordinance violations, divorce, paternity, name change, landlord/tenant, small claims, and filing of foreign judgments.
- Funded by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, filing fees and forfeiture payments.

Education

LCO youth are educated in three primary school districts. These districts are:

- Lac Courte Oreilles School
- Winter School District (70 students/17% of student body)
- Hayward School District (485/24.2%)

(Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

Lac Courte Oreilles Head Start/Early Head Start provides early education to tribal children and their families:

- Head Start educates children ages 3 to 5
- Head Start has an enrollment of 102 children
- Early Head Start educated expectant mothers and children from birth to age 3
- Early Head Start has an enrollment of 64 for center-based education
- Early Head Start serves 24 children under home-based education

Waadookodaading – Ojibwe Language Immersion Charter School:

- Primary goal is to create new speakers of Ojibwemowin and reach highest standards of academic achievement
- All core subjects taught in Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language)
- Serves Pre-k through 5th grade students
- Enrollment of 28 students

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa K-12 School System

- The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa School is a pre-K - 12th grade school
- Total enrollment of 330 students
- The school is accredited
- Some funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- A portion of the food program receives state funding
- No state equalization aid or charter school funds
- The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa School has a 95% graduation rate

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (LCOOCC) serves higher education needs in Northern Wisconsin:

- Enrollment of 550 students from five reservations – the LCOOCC Campus, and for outreach sites on the Red Cliff Reservation, Bad River Reservation, St., Croix Reservation, and Lac du Flambeau Reservation.
- “Open Door” enrollment policy recruits both native and non-native students
- Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

Healthcare

Community Health Center

- Routine care, ambulatory care, pharmacy, dental, lab, x-ray, diagnostics lab, behavioral health, alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) services, women infants and children (WIC) programs, community health, diabetes care, Honor Our Children, optical, and nutrition.

Mushkiki (Medicine House):

- “Walk-In” clinic open after regular center hours.
- Healthcare funded by Indian Health Service and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, with some tribal funding.

Social Services

- Oakwood Haven - an emergency shelter
- Consolidated Family Services Department
- A halfway house
- An Indian Child Welfare Department
- AODA counseling
- Child care assistance programs
- Funded through a variety of sources including tribal, state and federal monies

Economic Enterprises

- LCO employs approximately 900 people
- 21% of those are non-Native American
- 79% are Native American

Business	Type of Business
LCO Casino, Lodge, Convention Center Hayward, WI	Gaming/lodging/meeting facility
LCO Cranberry Marsh Hayward, WI	Cranberry marsh
LCO Development Corporation Hayward, WI	Construction/infrastructure/trucking
LCO Commercial Center Hayward, WI	Grocery/Cigarettes/Liquor Store
LCO Quick Stop Hayward, WI	Gasoline/light grocery
Grindstone Creek Casino Hayward, WI	Gaming
LCO Convenience Store Hayward, WI	Gasoline/car wash/light grocery/liquor
LCO C-2 Spur Station	Gasoline/Light Grocery
LCO Smoke Shop Hayward, WI	Cigarettes/tobacco
LCO Federal Credit Union Hayward, WI	Savings/loans
The Landing Hayward, WI	Full Family Resort with Restaurant, Bar & Cabins for Rent
WOJB-FM Hayward, WI	100 KWatt Community Radio station
Hydro Facility Winter, WI	Electric plant

Chippewa Wood Crafters
Hayward, WI

Custom Wood Furnishings in Rustic Styles

Pineview Funeral Services
Hayward, WI

Tribal & non-Tribal Funeral and Burial
Services

LCO Fireworks Station
Hayward, WI

Seasonal Sales

LCO Transit
Hayward, WI

Transportation System

Lynk's Café
Hayward, WI

Leased Business –
Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Morrow's Native Art
Hayward, WI

Leased Business – Arts & Crafts





Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

PO Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
Phone: 715-588-3303
Fax: 715-588-7930
Website: www.ldftribe.com
www.facebook.com/LDFtribe

John (Goober) Johnson, President
George Thompson, Vice-President
Jamie-Ann Allen, Secretary (term began 2025)
Nadine Poupart, Treasurer (term began 2025)

Council Members:

Zachary Allen (term began 2025)
Dr Katrina (Chapman) Mares (term began 2025)
Shane Mitchell (term began 2025)
Stephanie Thompson (term began 2025)
Sedwick Armstrong (term began 2024)
William "Billy" Mitchell, Sr. (term began 2024)
Gloria Cobb (term began 2024)
Betty Lou Wayman (term began 2024)

Location: Vilas County, north central Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 3415 Lac du Flambeau tribal members.

- 18 and under = 860
- Ages 18 and older = 2555

The Lac du Flambeau Reservation, located primarily in Vilas County, totals 86,600 acres.

- 39,403 acres are tribally owned
- 18,532 acres are individually allotted
- 28,665 acres are fee land
- 24,000 acres are water/wetlands that include 260 lakes, 65 miles of streams, lakes, and rivers.

The Lac du Flambeau Government, including its enterprises, is the largest employer in Vilas County, employing approximately 800 people (*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*).

Tribal Government

The Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council is composed of 12 members.

- The council meets twice monthly
- Decisions are made by a majority rule
- Elections are held every October for two officer positions and four members of the council. Two-year terms are staggered

Brief History

The band has inhabited the Lac du Flambeau area since 1745 when Chief Keeshkemun led the band to the area. The band acquired the name Lac du Flambeau from its gathering practice of harvesting fish at night by torchlight. The name Lac du Flambeau or Lake of the Torches refers to this practice and was given to the band by the French traders and trappers who visited the area.

The Lac du Flambeau Reservation was officially established by treaties in 1837 and 1842. The area was continually logged in the following years and became a tourist destination for families from southern Wisconsin and Illinois around the turn of the century.

To increase economic activity and foster self-reliance among the various Native American communities, the tribe began bingo and casino operations. Revenues generated by the casino operations would go to the tribe and directly benefit the economic and social development of the community. The casino has enhanced both

the economy of the Lakeland area and to provide public services to residents in Lac du Flambeau.

Tribal Services

Aging Program

The Lac du Flambeau Aging and Disabilities services provides information, referrals, Elder activities, case management, nutrition, transportation, and benefits counseling to elders, veterans, and persons with long-term disabilities.

Services:

- Veteran and Elder benefits
- Veteran and Elder activities
- Elder meals; dining and meals on wheels
- Case management
- Information
- Personal care, chore services, and transportation

Judicial Branch (Not a tribal service)

Includes:

- 1 Trial Judge
 - Associate judges as deemed necessary by Tribal Council and when the need arises three appellate court judges
- Legal counsel must pass bar to practice before the court
- The Lac du Flambeau Court System handles cases such as conservation/natural resources, children & families, health, safety & welfare, civil, divorce, custody, child support, domestic abuse, small claims, replevin, and recognition of foreign orders
- Funded by Bureau of Indian Affairs grants, tribal funds and sub-contract with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

The judicial power of the Lac du Flambeau Band shall be vested in the Judiciary. The Judiciary shall have the powers to interpret and apply the Constitution and laws of the Lac du Flambeau Band. The Tribal Trial Court shall have the original jurisdiction over all cases and controversies, both criminal and civil, in law or in equity, arising under the Constitution, laws, customs and traditions of the Lac du Flambeau Band, including all actions in which the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C., sec. 1901, et.seq., are applicable and cases in which the Tribe, or its officials and employees shall be a party. This grant of jurisdiction shall not be construed as a waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity.

Education

Includes:

- Community Education Center
 - Education Department
 - Nicolet Area Technical College classroom
- Zaasijwan Head Start
- Lac du Flambeau Elementary School District
- Lakeland Union High School
 - Extended Resources – West
 - Alternative Site classroom

- Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Language Program

Healthcare: Peter Christensen Health Center

Services:

- Quality health care provided by 3 board certified family Practice Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber & one Physician Assistant-Certified.
- Acute med conditions assessed through the walk-in dept.
- Staged Diabetic Management
- Obstetric Care
- Womens Wellness
- Chronic Disease Management
- Well Child exams
- Preventative Care
- CLIA certified Laboratory services
- In addition to medical services, PCHC also offers preventative and routine dental care. The dental clinic is under supervision of Dr. Brad Walden, DMD.
- Clinic services include: urgent care, pharmacy, dental, optical, community health, diabetes care, and nutrition
- Funded by Lac du Flambeau Tribe, with some funds coming from the Indian Health Service and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- PCHC also has a new Optical Department, offering the full spectrum of optical services, including frames and contacts. The Optical Department is under the supervision of Dr. Renee Walden, OD.

Housing Authority

The mission of the CHA is to develop, operate and maintain affordable housing programs and activities on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. The purpose of these activities is to provide Tribal membership with a decent, safe, sanitary housing and supportive services that promote self-sufficiency, economic and community development on the Reservation. The Chippewa Housing Authority's first 20 low rent properties were available to the community in 1966. Today, CHA housing stock includes 196 low rent units, 50 Mutual Help homes, 72 Tax Credit units and 64 USDA-RDS 515 units.

Law Enforcement

Includes:

- Twelve officers and one Chief of Police
- Agreement with Vilas County Sheriff's Department (transportation, jail housing)
- Funded primarily with tribal funds, some discretionary federal grants, and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance funds

Lac du Flambeau Public Library

The mission of the Lac du Flambeau Public Library is to provide informational, cultural, educational, recreational resource and services to all residents of the Lac du Flambeau area, and encompassing the communities in Vilas County. The library is committed to freedom of information to all.

Social Services

The Tribe's Family Resource Center provides a wide range of services and programs to the Lac du Flambeau Community to ensure the support and preservation of family life and well being on the reservation.

Services/Departments:

- Lac du Flambeau Child Welfare Office
- Mental Health Outreach Program
- Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program
- Tribal Family Services Program
- Domestic Abuse Program
- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Program
- Economic Assistance/Support
- Food Distribution Program
- Youth Services
- Problem Gambling Counseling

Tribal Natural Resource Department

This Department was designed to provide the personnel, materials, supplies, equipment, facilities, and management of the natural resources on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation.

The reservation is 86,630 acres (or 144 square miles). It is a checkerboard reservation with land status consisting of Tribal (45.4%), Tribal Allotted (21.4%), and Alienated (33.1%) land.

The reservation consists of 260 lakes, 17,897 surface acres of water, 64 miles of creeks, rivers, and streams, 2,400 acres of wetlands, and 41,733 acres of forested upland.

The Department consists of ten programs:

- Fish Culture
- Fisheries Management
- Wildlife Management
- Circle of Flight
- Conservation Law
- Forestry
- Water Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Environmental Protection
- Historic Preservation
- Land Management

Tribal Roads Department

The Tribal Roads Department is committed to maintaining all tribal roads and ensuring traffic runs as smooth as possible in Lac du Flambeau. The department is focused on keeping tribal roads accessible at all times.

Services:

- Snow plowing for elders, tribal roads, and some bus routes
- Maintenance of tribal roads; gravelling, signage, disposing of fallen trees, etc.
- Cleaning of lots for new home/subdivision construction

- Stumpage, brushing of tribal lots as requested
- Upkeep of Tribal Garage and all machinery and equipment therein to maintain safety

Water and Sewer Department

The Department strives to provide quality, uninterrupted service that meets or exceeds all Federal safe drinking water standards. Also collects and treats all wastewater generated by the community.

Youth Center - Abinoojiiyag Center

The Abinoojiiyag Center is available for Lac du Flambeau community youth and their families.

The Abinoojiiyag Center provides alternative, positive activities for youth to reduce and stop alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse, and criminal behavior among youth on the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

The Center operates under the Family Resource Center, and collaborates with the Lac du Flambeau Public School, Lakeland Union High School, Tribal programs, Great Lakes Inter Tribal Council, and other tribes throughout Wisconsin to provide these services.

Services the Abinoojiiyag Center building is available for include, family activities such as naming ceremonies, family reunions, birthday parties, when no other center-sponsored activity is taking place, which promote family togetherness, community wellness, healthy alternatives to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use

Economic Enterprises

Lac du Flambeau employs approximately 800 people.

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>
Lake of the Torches Lac du Flambeau, WI	Casino, hotel/lodge, convention center
Lac du Flambeau Tribe and Tribal Enterprises Lac du Flambeau, WI	Campground/marina Store/Gas Station Smoke Shop Museum Simpson Electric



Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Menominee Tribal Legislature
W2908 Tribal Office Loop
P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135-0910
Phone: 715-799-5114
Fax: 715-799-3373
Website: www.menominee-nsn.gov
www.facebook.com/MenomineeIndianTribeofWI

Joey Awonohopay, Chair
Dana Waubanasum, Vice-Chair
Daynell Grignon, Secretary

Council Members:

Michael Fish, Jr. (term began 2025)
Samantha Grignon (term began 2025)
Joan Delabrue (term began 2026)
Randal Chevalier (term began 2026)
Kaycee Frechette (term began 2026)
Marcus Grignon (term began 2026)

Location: Menominee County, northeast Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 8,720 Menominee tribal members

- 19 and under = 2,159
- Ages 20-64 = 5,892
- 65 and older = 669

The Menominee Reservation and Menominee County share nearly identical boundaries, with the area known as Middle Village being the exception. The size of the reservation is 235,524 acres or approximately 357.96 square miles, and contains roughly 223,500 acres of heavily forested lands, representing the largest single tract of virgin timberland in Wisconsin. Approximately 98 percent of acreage is trust land and two (2) percent of acreage is fee land. The Menominee Tribe has no additional trust land outside of their contiguous boundaries.

The Menominee Tribe is the largest employer in Menominee County, employing approximately 701 people (*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*).

Tribal Government

The Tribal Government was created through Section 5(c) of the Menominee Restoration Act; Article IV Section I within the Constitution and Bylaws. The Menominee Tribal Legislature is composed of nine members. Elections are held every January.

- Chairperson
 - Elected by the Tribal Legislature
 - One year term
 - Vice-Chairperson
 - Elected by the Tribal Legislature
 - One year term
 - Secretary
 - Elected by the Tribal Legislature
 - One year term
 - Six Legislators
 - 3 year terms, staggered
 - Meets twice a month
 - Decisions are majority rule.
-

Brief History

The Menominee Indian Tribe's current reservation was created in 1854 through treaty with the United States of America. On June 17, 1954 Congress implemented Public Law 108. This is known as the "Termination Bill" which was signed into law by President Eisenhower. This provided for termination of federal control of the Menominee Indian Reservation.

On July 3, 1959 Governor Gaylord Nelson signed a law making Menominee County the state's 72nd County. This was an experiment to force tribes to join the mainstream of American society as an assimilation attempt.

During the period from 1961 to 1973 federal supervision over the Tribe was terminated. On April 30, 1961 the Menominee Termination Plan was submitted to the Secretary of Interior. In 1962 the Menominee Council of Chiefs was organized as a non-profit organization ideally for the purpose of preserving the name "Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin" which was technically abolished during termination. A petition was signed by 780 Menominee's requesting the repeal of the Menominee Termination in 1964.

In May 1968 the Tribe had filed suit regarding the hunting and fishing rights of tribal members. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Tribe's favor establishing that when termination was effective it did not relinquish their right to hunt and fish, *Menominee Tribe vs. United States*, 391 U.S. 404 (1968). When the Termination Plan was implemented the enrolled members became shareholders in Menominee Enterprises, Inc. which became known as M.E.I. The M.E.I. Board of Trustees consisted of seven (7) members; three (3) of whom were non-members. In 1968, the M.E.I. entered into the "Lakes of Menominee," project referred to now as Legend Lake.

In spite of many barriers, the Menominee persisted with their goal in restoring the land to trust status. On April 20, 1972, Wisconsin Senators Proxmire and Nelson introduced Senate Bill No. 3514 in response to the Menominee's ambition to seek reversal of termination. With the dedication and persistence of Tribal members and a coalition of supporters, the Menominee Restoration Act was signed into law on December 22, 1973 by President Nixon after two and one-half years of congressional testimony the Restoration Act was passed. It provided for the federal recognition of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin thereby returning the nation to trust status and sovereign immunity through the development of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Constitution and Bylaws.

The sovereign immunity of the Tribe is retained through Article XVIII of the Constitution and Bylaws, which allows suit to be brought against the Tribe in Menominee Tribal Court by those subject to the Tribe's jurisdiction. Suit may be brought against the Tribe to enforce an ordinance of the Tribe, a provision of the Menominee Constitution, or a provision of the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- The Menominee Tribal Police Department (MTPD) employs 46 people, 25 of whom are sworn law enforcement officers that operate exclusively within the reservation boundaries
- Law Enforcement is funded by federal, state and tribal funds, with the overwhelming majority coming from the tribe and the federal government through the Department of Justice. The state provides funds for the Crime Victim's Grant.
- Menominee Law Enforcement is involved with the Multi-Jurisdictional team with the State of Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation.
- MTPD is a member of the Wisconsin Clearing House for Missing and Exploited Children.
- MTPD is in the development of a Multi-Disciplinary team for tribal Law Enforcement agencies on issues affecting agencies within Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Court System

- Menominee Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction for both civil and criminal matters. Except for some major crimes that are handled by the Federal courts, tribal court handles the same types of variety of cases as a Wisconsin circuit court. These include criminal, juvenile delinquency, Juveniles in need of Protective Services, Child in need of Protection/Services, civil litigation, probate, guardianships, mental health and alcohol commitments, traffic, civil ordinance violations, Termination of Parental Rights and adoptions.
- Menominee Tribal court is a two-level judicial system where all final trial court orders can be appealed to the Tribal Supreme Court.
- The court system is funded through federal and tribal funds.

Education

The Menominee Indian School District was established by the state of Wisconsin in 1976 and its boundaries encompass the Menominee Indian Reservation, making it one of only two public school districts located almost entirely on Indian lands.

Menominee Indian School District consists of 919 students/99.5% of student body is Native American. The district includes the Keshena Primary School in Keshena, Menominee Indian Middle School in Neopit, Menominee Indian High School and Adult Learning Center in Keshena.

The Menominee Indian School District offers everything that can be found in larger school districts including technology in every classroom, research based curriculum which meets national and state standards, tutoring, athletics, after school programs, and facilities that provide a safe learning environment.

The Menominee also have a tribally-administered school:

- The Menominee Tribal School is a K-8 grade school
- Total enrollment of 198 students
- The school is accredited
- Receives both federal and tribal funding

The tribe operates a comprehensive birth-to-five Head Start Program

- Early Head Start has an enrollment of 32 children and 13 pregnant mothers
- Head Start has an enrollment of 198 three and four year old children

The tribe also operates the College of Menominee Nation.

- The college was chartered by the Menominee Tribal Legislature in 1993. The college was granted full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) in 1998.
- The college also offers classes on the Oneida reservation so that other Native Americans can benefit from a tribally run college. The college also represents an opportunity for individuals to continue their education while working. A large number of students are part-time.

Healthcare

- The Menominee Tribal Clinic provides comprehensive outpatient services in the area of Medical, Dental and Community Health Services.
- The Clinic is accredited from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.
- The Clinic employs over 129 employees, including seven (7) board certified family physicians, two (2) mid-level practitioners, four (4) dentists, and two (2) optometrists.
- The Clinic has over 9,000 active medical charts, of which 10% are non-tribal members.
- Primary funding is through the Indian Health Services, and Department of Health & Family Services through contracts and grants.

Social Services

- Day care receives Tribal and Federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Children and Families.
- Tribal Social Services receives tribal and federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Health Services.
- Child support receives funding through the tribal and federal governments

- Family Preservation programs receive tribal and federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Justice and the Department of Health Services.
- The Menominee have a recreation program fully funded by the tribal government.
- Maehnowesekiyah, a comprehensive AODA treatment center, receives tribal and federal funds, including state funding through the Department of Health Services and Department of Children and Families.
- The Menominee Insurance Department administers funding received through the Department of Health Services for the Medical Relief Block Grant (MRBG). This program serves an average of fifty (50) persons in need of contracted health services.

Economic Enterprises

- The Menominee Tribe employs approximately 701 people:
 - 72% are Native American
 - 28% are Non-Native American
- The Menominee Tribe is the largest employer in Menominee County.
- The Menominee Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Organization. There are currently 46 businesses who are members which include the Shawano, Gresham and Stockbridge communities. The Chamber and Menominee Business Center has worked with USDA-Rural Development, HUD - Indian Community Development Block Grant and the North woods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc.

Other Associates:

- University of Wisconsin Extension
- College of the Menominee Nation
- Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc.
- Menominee Revolving Loan Fund
- State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce
- USDA Rural Development
- Small Business Administration
- Professional Memberships
- National Business Incubators Association
- Wisconsin Business Incubators Association
- Shawano Chamber of Commerce

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has four chartered businesses:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Menominee Casino, Bingo & Hotel | Gaming/Lodging/Entertainment |
| • Menominee Tribal Enterprises | Forest products/Sawmill |
| • Economic Development Authority | Business Development |
| • Kenosha Gaming Authority | Off-Reservation Gaming |



Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians

Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416
Phone: 715-793-4111
Fax: 715-793-1307
Website: <https://mohican.com>
www.facebook.com/smcMohican

Shannon Holsey, President
William Miller, Vice-President
Crystal Malone, Treasurer

Council Members:

Ella Kazik
Terrie Terrio
Rainer Shooter
Terrance Miller

Location: Shawano County, northeast Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 1,565 Stockbridge-Munsee tribal members

- 17 and under = 139
- Ages 18 - 65 = 1,181
- 64 and older = 253

The Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation totals 22,139 acres

- 16,255 are held in trust
- 5,884 are fee land
- 529 tribal members live on reservation, trust, or fee land along with 400 non-tribal members

The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe employs 740 people and is the largest employer in Shawano County.

Tribal Government

The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council is composed of seven members

- A president
 - Two year term
- Vice-president
 - One year term
- Secretary
 - An appointed position
- Treasurer
 - Two year term
- Four council members
 - The council meets twice monthly
 - Decisions are made by a majority rule
 - One year terms.

Elections are held in October every year

Brief History

The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians is descended from a group of Mohicans (variously known as Mahikan, Housatonic and River Indians; the ancestral name Muh-he-con-ne-ok means "people of the waters that are never still") and a band of the Delaware Indians known as the Munsee. The Mohicans and the Delaware, closely related in customs and traditions, originally inhabited large portions of what is now the northeastern United States. In 1734, a small group of Mohicans established a village near Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where they began to assimilate but were nonetheless driven out by Euro-Americans. In 1785 they founded "New Stockbridge" in upper New York

State at the invitation of the Oneida Indians. Their new home, however, was on timber land sought after by non-Indian settlers.

In 1818, the band settled briefly in White River, Indiana, only to be again relocated. In order to relocate both the Stockbridge-Munsee and Oneida Indians, government officials, along with missionaries, negotiated the acquisition of a large tract in what is now Wisconsin. In 1834, the Stockbridge Indians settled there; two years later they were joined by some Munsee families who were migrating west from Canada and who decided to remain with the Stockbridge families. Together, they became known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Band. The tribe expanded its land base by obtaining 46,000 acres by treaty with their neighbors to the north, the Menominee Tribe. More pressure from the government resulted in more relocation - first in Kaukana, Wisconsin, and later to a community on the shores of Lake Winnebago that the tribe named Stockbridge.

By the terms of a new treaty with the federal government in 1856, the band moved to its present site in Shawano County. The General Allotment Act of 1887 resulted in the loss of a great deal of land by the Stockbridge-Munsee. In the Great Depression, the tribe lost yet more land. However, in the early 1930's the Stockbridge-Munsee experienced a reawakening of their identity and began reorganizing. In 1932 they even took over the town council of Red Springs under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, created an activist Business Committee and started to regain some of their land. The Secretary of the Interior affirmed the reservation in 1937.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- Cross-deputized with the Shawano County Sheriff's Department
- Funded primarily with federal funds, tribal funds, and contributions from the villages of Bowler and Gresham and funds from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Court System

- The Stockbridge-Munsee court system handles civil cases, domestic dispute and guardianship cases
- Tribally-funded

Education

Stockbridge-Munsee youth are educated in two primary school districts. These districts are:

- Bowler School District (183 students/37.5% of the student body), 71% of Stockbridge-Munsee students graduated in 2004
- Shawano Gresham School District (463 Menominee & Mohican students/15.7% of the student body)

(Source: *Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*)

In higher education, six Stockbridge-Munsee tribal members received undergraduate degrees in 2004. There are currently 85 tribal members seeking post-secondary degrees.

Healthcare

- Tribally-operated clinic services include: ambulatory outpatient, medical, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, dental, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) programs, mental health, community health, Indian Child Welfare Act programs, chiropractic, physical therapy and podiatry

- Funded by Stockbridge-Munsee, with some funds coming from the U.S. Indian Health Service and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- Approximately 30% of those served are non-tribal members

Social Services

- After school program funding, including youth prevention (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse programs, HIV/AIDS, suicide prevention, leadership skills building, independent living skills and open room activities) funded through tribal youth grant funds and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- Domestic violence counseling/legal advocacy programs
- Homeless emergency shelter
- AODA counseling
- Child care assistance programs
- Nutrition programs
- Programs funded through tribal, state and federal monies
- Non-tribal members may take advantage of tribal social service programs, approximately 50% of those served are, in fact, non-tribal members

Economic Enterprises

Stockbridge-Munsee employs approximately 740 people

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>
Mohican North Star Casino and Bingo Bowler, WI	Gaming/entertainment facility
Many Trails Banquet Hall Gresham, WI	Dining/entertainment facility
Pine Hills Golf Course and Supper Club Gresham, WI	Recreation/dining facility
Little Star Convenience Store Bowler, WI	Gasoline/light grocery
Mohican RV Park Bowler, WI	Recreational vehicle campground



Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

PO Box 365
N7210 Seminary Rd
Oneida, WI 54155-0365
Phone: 920-869-2214
Fax: 920-869-4040
Website: <https://oneida-nsn.gov>
www.facebook.com/OneidaNationWI

Tehassi Hill, Chair
Brandon Yellowbird-Stevens, Vice-Chair
Lisa Liggins, Secretary
Larry Barton, Treasurer

Council Members:

Jenny Webster
Kirby Metoxen
Marlon Skenandore
Jonas Hill
Jameson Wilson

Location: Brown and Outagamie Counties, northeast Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 16,567 Oneida tribal members

- 17 and under = 3,442
- Ages 18-64 = 11,813
- 65 and older = 1,312

The Oneida Reservation, located in Brown and Outagamie Counties, totals 65,400 acres.

- 23,122 acres are tribally owned
- 12,208 acres are considered fee land
- 10,904 acres are considered tribal trust land

Oneida is the 5th largest employer in Brown County and the 14th largest in Outagamie County (Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development), employing approximately 3,085 people.

Tribal Government

The Oneida Business Committee is composed of nine members, meeting bi-monthly with decisions made by majority rule.

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Five council members

Elections are held every three years with primary/post primary elections newly added, beginning in 2011. Terms are concurrent.

Brief History

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is sovereign government with a long and proud history of self-government. We are a federally-recognized treaty tribe of the United States. We have faced threats and continue to face threats to our homelands. The Oneida have persevered in the face of adversity for centuries, and we proudly and passionately continue to protect and preserve our homelands.

The Oneidas, along with the Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga and Onondaga comprised the original Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy that dates back to the 1500s, which later became the Six Nations when the Tuscarora joined in the 1700s. The Iroquois held millions of acres of land in what is now the State of New York, which entered statehood in 1776.

During the Revolutionary War, the Oneida and the Tuscarora supported the colonies and served in General George Washington's army. For this service, our lands were to be protected forever, a promise reflected in the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua between the

Oneida and United States.

The 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix was the first treaty between the Oneida and United States that established peace between the Iroquois Confederacy and the colonial states, which operated under the Articles of Confederation at the time. This treaty of peace established the government-to-government relationship between the Oneida Tribe and the United States that continues to exist today.

Through the 1785 Treaty of Fort Herkimer and the 1788 Treaty of Fort Schuyler with the State of New York, the Oneida lost more than 5 million acres of their ancestral homelands to the State of New York.

In 1789, the states ratified the United States Constitution, which declared treaties of the United States to be the law of the land. The United States adopted the Non-Intercourse Act of 1793, which prohibited the purchase of any Indian land by any person or entity without the Federal Government's approval.

In spite of the Non-Intercourse Act, the State of New York continued to enter into a series of land transactions between 1795 and 1846 with the Oneida in direct violation of federal law. These land transactions continued to deplete the Oneida land holdings in New York until only 32 acres remained in Oneida possession by the 1820s.

During the 1820s, Oneidas relocated to what would become the State of Wisconsin to establish new homelands. The Oneidas purchased 5 million acres of land from the Winnebago and Menominee Tribes for the purpose of preserving sovereignty as a self-governing sovereign nation. This band of Oneidas became recognized as the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, who entered their final treaty with the United States in 1838, ten years before Wisconsin entered statehood.

The Treaty of 1838 between the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and the United States established the present day Oneida Reservation boundaries located in northeast Wisconsin and comprised of 65,430 acres. To the present day, the Oneida Reservation has not been diminished or disestablished by an Act of Congress and our reservation boundaries as established by treaty continue to exist under the full force and effect of federal law and the United States Constitution.

The Dawes Allotment Act of 1887 enacted by Congress was the next challenge of maintaining our homelands. Our lands were divided into individual parcels that resulted in a significant loss of tribal land ownership because our members did not understand the English language and did not understand land taxation. Consequently, tribal land ownership was reduced to a few thousand acres within the Oneida Reservation boundaries.

The Dawes Allotment Act and the loss of tribal land ownership were ended when Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA). The federal policy of the IRA was to recognize and strengthen the authority and autonomy of tribal governments, and implicit in the recognition of tribal authority is a tribes right of self-government. The IRA provided the foundation for adopting a tribal constitution that would govern tribal members.

In 1936, the Oneida membership adopted the Oneida Constitution that established an elected governing body for the Oneida membership. Upon adoption of the Oneida Constitution, the United States federal government purchased 1,270 acres of land within the Oneida Reservation and placed that land into trust for the benefit of the Oneida Tribe.

Since passage of the IRA, the Oneida Tribe has taken the initiative to actively acquire ownership of land within the Oneida Reservation boundaries, and to provide for its membership through governmental programs and services that meet the needs of the people. More importantly, the Oneida Tribe has strengthened its authority by the adoption, implementation and enforcement of tribal laws. The Oneida Tribe preserves its sovereignty by exercising the inherent right of self-government over our lands and members within the Oneida Reservation boundaries.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- 24 officers
- Cross-deputized with the Brown County Sheriff's Department
- Funded primarily with tribal funds, some discretionary federal grants, and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance funds.

Court System

- The Oneida Tribal Judicial System. The Judicial System is composed of the following courts: Trial, Family, and Appellate.
- The court system was created in 1991 with the adoption of the Administrative Procedures Act and Resolution 8-19-91-A. The purpose of this action, as spelled out in the resolution and the APA was to 1) enhance and protect the self-government and sovereignty of the Oneida Tribe 2) enhance a governmental separation of powers between legislative (LOC), executive (OBC) and judicial (OTJS) responsibilities.
- There are 11 judges elected to the Judicial System in staggered terms. Terms are four years for eight of the judges, three years for three judges. Six judges are assigned to the Trial/Family Courts and five judges are assigned to the Appellate Court.

Education

Oneida youth are educated in five primary school districts. These districts are:

- Seymour Community Schools with a Native Enrollment of 341 (13.5%)
 - West DePere School District with a Native Enrollment of 241 (8.7%)
 - Freedom School District with a Native Enrollment 65 (3.9%)
 - Green Bay Area School District with a Native Enrollment of 1037 (5.1%)
 - Pulaski School District with a Native Enrollment of 134 (3.5%)
- (Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

Two Tribal Schools:

- Oneida Nation Elementary School is a K-8th grade school
- Total enrollment of 331 students
- Oneida Nation High School is a 9-12th grade school
- Total enrollment of is 79 students
- Both schools are accredited
- Some funds from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- No state equalization aid or charter school funds

Healthcare

- Clinical services include: optometry, dental, orthodontia, primary care (Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics), specialty care (Urology, OB/Gyn, ENT, Allergy-Asthma, Diabetes), ancillary care (X-ray, Lab, Pharmacy), Behavioral Health (Mental Health & Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Abuse), Skilled Nursing Services, Employee/Occupational Health Services, and numerous grant related programs to include: the Community Options Program, Women-Infants-Children (WIC), the Wisconsin Well Women's Program, Preventive Health Services, Rural Infant Health Project, the Cooperative American Indian Health Project (Safety Town), the Immunization Program (Infants and Communicable Disease-influenza), the Medicaid Eligibility Outreach Program (enrolling eligible people I Medical Assistance), the Medical Relief Block Grant (for uninsured Dental patients). Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, and IT Technology grants programs.
- Funding from the Oneida Tribe, the state of Wisconsin, the federal government and private foundations as well as 3rd party reimbursements from commercial insurance carriers, Wisconsin Medicaid, Medicare and private pay.

Social Services

- Children and Family Services
 - Indian Child Welfare
 - Foster Care and Placement
 - Domestic Abuse Prevention & Intervention
 - Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Community Wellness
 - Parenting (single, teen, ma/pa, grandparents)
 - Kinship Care
 - Juvenile Services, prevention and intervention
- Elderly Services, 55+
 - Respite Care
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Congregate meals
 - Transportation Services
 - Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents
 - Elder Abuse Prevention
 - Family Care-givers
 - Home chore
 - Benefits assistance
 - Life-Line
- Food Distribution (on site and home delivery)
- Child Support Enforcement
- Community Support Programs/Economic Support
 - TANF
 - Catastrophic aid
 - Food Share/MA
 - Heating/Utility Assistance/Rental Assistance for emergencies only
- Native Employment Works
 - Community Development Block Grant/Wisconsin Shares
- Early Head start (pregnant parents and birth-2)
- Head start (3-5)
- Southeastern Oneida Tribal Services (SEOTS) Social Services outreach office

located in Milwaukee.

****All programs are funded by a combination of tribal, state and federal dollars****

Economic Enterprises

- Oneida employs approximately 3,085 people
- The Oneida tribe is the 5th largest employer in Brown County
- 42% of those are non-native
- 58% are native

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>
Oneida Casino Oneida, WI	Gaming/entertainment/lodging/meeting facilities
Oneida One Stops Oneida, WI	Retail convenience store
Thornberry Creek at Oneida Oneida, WI	Golf Course
Tsyunhehkwa Retail Oneida, WI	Traditional foods grocery
Oneida Apple Orchards/Farm Oneida, WI	Agriculture and Black Angus cattle farming
Oneida Seven Generations Corporation Holdings/Business Oneida, WI	Property Management/Real Estate Development
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises Oneida, WI	Environmental & Civil Engineering/Construction/ Services/Homeland Security
Bay Bank Oneida, WI	Commercial Bank

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Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

88455 Pike Road, Highway 13
Red Cliff, WI 54814
Phone: 715-779-3700
Fax: 715-779-3704
Website: www.redcliff-nsn.gov
www.facebook.com/RedCliffTribe

Nicole Boyd, Chair
Misty Nordin, Vice-Chair
Laura Gordon, Treasurer
Stephanie (Defoe) Haskins, Secretary

At-Large Members:

David Curran (term began 2025)
Nicole Gurnoe (term began 2025)
Misty Nordin (term began 2025)
Dawn "Digger" Peterson (term began 2026)
Shania Nordby (term began 2026)

Location: Bayfield County, northwest Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 5,312 Red Cliff tribal members.

Within Bayfield County, the tribal population breaks down as follows:

- 16 and under = 882
- Ages 16 - 64 = 1,463
- 65 and older = 168

The Red Cliff Reservation totals 14,541 acres.

- 6,404 acres are tribally owned
- 1,917 acres are individually allotted
- 6,220 acres are considered fee land
- Approximately 2,513 tribal members live on reservation, trust, or fee land lands.
- Additionally, large numbers of tribal members live in the City of Bayfield and the Belanger Settlement

Red Cliff is the largest employer in Bayfield County. They employ approximately 300 people.

Tribal Government

A nine-member council governs Red Cliff.

- Decisions are made by majority rule
- The council is elected to two-year staggered terms with elections held annually

Brief History

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians retains rights under various treaties it signed with the United States in 1836, 1837, 1842, and 1854. This series of treaties ceded large tracts of land in northern Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota to the federal government. In exchange for these vast land cessions, the tribes were given promises of small amounts of money, schooling, equipment, and the like. In addition, the 1854 treaty included the reservation of land as a permanent home for many of the Chippewa bands, including Red Cliff. It is under this treaty that the current reservation was established at Red Cliff. In addition, under the various treaties the tribes, including Red Cliff, reserved certain "usufructuary" rights, namely, the right to hunt, fish, and gather on the lands ceded to the federal government. These treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather within the ceded territory have been upheld in a series of federal and state court decisions over the past three decades.

The tribe's sovereign immunity from suit is akin to the immunity of the United States and is jurisdictional in nature. Sovereign immunity is an absolute bar to a lawsuit against the tribe. The doctrine of sovereign immunity from suit as it applies to Indian tribes has

received continued and unqualified adherence by the U.S. Supreme Court for well over the last half-century. The tribe's sovereign immunity from suit can only be waived by Congress, or by the tribe itself. Sovereign immunity from suit extends to state court subpoenas seeking to hail tribal officials and/or documents into state court.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- Two officers
- Authorized as a law enforcement agency under Wisconsin statute.
- Funded by Federal funds, with some grant assistance from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

Court System

- One judge and two associate judges
- Practitioners must be admitted to the tribal bar
- The Red Cliff Court System handles cases such as conservation violations, child welfare, etc.
- Funded by Federal funds

Education

- Red Cliff youth are primarily educated in the Bayfield School District (337 students/68.2% of the student population)
- Early Childhood Center – Day Care, Head Start & Early Head Start
- Tribal library
- Red Cliff has a 98% high school graduation rate

Healthcare

- Clinic services include: outpatient ambulatory services such as access to physicians, family nurse practitioners, pediatricians, labs, x-rays, pharmacy, dentists, mental health and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) outpatient and residential services
- Community health program services include community health representatives; nursing; immunization; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Wisconsin Well Women's Program coordination; diabetes programs and maternal and child health services are provided through the Honoring Our Children Program
- Funded by Federal funds, with some funds coming from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- Non-Native Americans are eligible to take advantage of services provided they meet certain requirements

Social Services

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program
- Child Care and Development Fund
- Funded through a variety of sources including state and federal monies

Economic Enterprises

- Red Cliff employs approximately 300 people in their operations

- 25% are non-Native American
- 75% are Native American

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>
Legendary Waters Resort and Casino (under construction) Red Cliff, WI	Gaming and Hotel
Isle Vista Casino Red Cliff, WI	Gaming
Red Cliff Marina Red Cliff, WI	Marina
Business Park Red Cliff, WI	
Fish Hatchery Red Cliff, WI	





St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

St. Croix Tribal Center

24663 Angeline Avenue

Webster, WI 54893

Phone: 715-349-2195

Fax: 715-349-5768

Website: <https://stcroixojibwe-nsn.gov>

www.facebook.com/people/St-Croix-Tribal-Government-Center

Conrad St. John, Chair (2025-2029 term)

Richard Benjamin, Vice-Chair (2025-2029 term)

Leslie Billy, Secretary/Treasurer (2025-2027 term)

Council Members:

Thomas Fowler (2025-2029 term)

Lester Merrill (2025-2027 term)

Location: Barron, Polk and Burnett Counties, Northwest Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 1,054 St. Croix tribal members.

The St. Croix Reservation, located mostly in Burnett County, totals 4,689 acres.

- 2,126 acres are tribally owned
- 2,563 acres are considered fee land
- St. Croix has trust land located in Barron, Burnett, and Polk Counties.
- Approximately 735 tribal members live on or near reservation, trust, or fee land

St. Croix is the largest employer in Burnett County and the 2nd largest employer in Barron County (*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*). They employ approximately 2,500 people.

Tribal Government

St. Croix is governed by a five person council.

- The council meets monthly
- Decisions are made by a majority rule
- Elections are held every two years

Brief History

The St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin were federally recognized in 1938. They have lived in what is present-day Wisconsin for centuries.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- 22 officers
- Some officers participate in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Burnett County Sheriff's Department and the Barron County Sheriff's Department
- Funded primarily with tribal funds, some discretionary federal grants, and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance funds

Court System

- 2 judges
 - The St. Croix court system handles cases such as tribal ordinances/commercial contract cases, housing evictions, Indian Child Welfare Act cases, and on/off reservation natural resource, fish and wildlife citations
-

- Funded by U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and tribal funds

Education

St. Croix youth are educated in four primary school districts. These districts are:

- Siren School District (102 students/20% of the student body)
- Webster School District (126/16.8%)
- Unity School District (82/7.4%)
- Cumberland School District (58/4.9%)

(Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

St. Croix operates a Head Start Program for Native American and non-Native American children ages 3 to 5. Funding comes from the federal Head Start Bureau with a 20% tribal match.

Healthcare

- Clinic services include: general health care, pharmacy, dental, optometry, podiatry, mental health, community health, maternal child health; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs; Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) programs, and transportation services.

Social Services

- Elders Advocate program
- Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion
- Tribal Historic Preservation
- Traditions Respecting American Indian Lifestyles (TRAILS)
- Child care program
- Head Start program
- Youth center program
- Indian Child Welfare Act program
- Family resources
- Alternatives to Violence
- AODA
- Food distribution
- Funded through a variety of tribal, state and federal monies

Economic Enterprises

- St. Croix employs approximately 2,500 people
- Government employment is 56% Native American and 44% non-Native American
- Enterprise employment is 25% Native American and 75% non-Native American

Business	Type of Business
St. Croix Casino and Hotel Turtle Lake, WI	Gaming/lodging/meeting facility
St. Croix Casino Danbury, WI	Gaming/lodging facility
Little Turtle Hertel Express Hertel, WI	Gas station/convenience store

St. Croix Waters Fishery Danbury, WI	Aquaculture facility, commercial fishery
Chippewa Check Services Siren, WI	Cash access business
Four Winds Market Siren, WI	Grocery store
Southwinds Professional Center Siren, WI	Office space complex
Rez Wear TM Webster, WI	Clothing/Embroidery/Silk Screening
St. Croix Construction Co. Hertel, WI	Construction company
St. Croix Tribal Health Clinic Hertel, WI	Health services
SCT Travel Agency Siren, WI	Travel agency
Eagles Landing Campground Danbury, WI	Campground
Many Nations Recovery Home Pensacola, FL	Drug and Alcohol halfway home
St. Croix Tribal Smokeshop Four Locations	Tobacco products and gifts
Emerald Systems, Inc.	Information Technology Software Company



Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Sokaogon Chippewa Community
3051 Sand Lake Road, Crandon, WI 54520
Phone: 715-478-7500
Fax: 715-478-5275
Website: www.sokaogonchippewa.com
www.facebook.com/Sokaogon

Robert VanZile Jr., Chair
Roger McGeshick Jr., Vice Chair
Sonya Smith, Treasurer
Maia Kegley, Secretary
Leelyn VanZile, Council Member I
Caleb McGeshick, Council Member II

Location: Forest County, northern Wisconsin

Page updated: 07/08/2026

Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Profile updated: 11-2010

Tribal Statistics

There are currently 1,377 Sokaogon Chippewa Community Tribal Members.

Population breakdown of the tribe is as follows:

- 17 and under = 348
- Ages 18 - 64 = 967
- 65 and older = 62
- The total number of enrolled members residing on the reservation is 468

The Mole Lake Reservation totals 4,904.2 acres

- Reservation 1,930 acres
- Trust Land 1,320 acres
- Fee Land 172 acres
- Fee Land (NMC Purchase) 1,482.2 acres

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community is the 13th largest employer in Forest County, employing more than 235 people of diverse skills.

Tribal Government

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community is governed by a six member council.

- The council meets monthly or as required
- Decision making is by majority rule
- Elections are held annually for council members not holding officer positions
- Officer elections are held every two years

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community is a sovereign nation chartered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federally recognized as a Native American Tribe/Nation, and operates under a ratified constitution.

Brief History

Under the provisions of the 1934 Reorganization Act, 1,745 acres of land were purchased for the Mole Lake Reservation. This area lies in southwestern Forest County, near Crandon. In 1930, a roll had been taken in the Mole Lake area and 199 Indians were determined to be in this band.

According to tribal history, these Indians had been promised this land by a treaty signed with Franklin Pierce. This agent, who was to confirm the treaty and secure the land for them, drowned on his return trip from Washington. The tribe, to this day, actively pursues any knowledge or document to support their claim to the original treaty lands.

Before the reservation was incorporated, the Mole Lake Chippewa lived in extreme poverty. These Chippewa welcomed the Reorganization Act and accepted a constitution on October 8, 1938.

At that time, the principle means of gaining a livelihood for this group were boat building, wild rice, wreath greens, selling souvenir bows and arrows, and other novelties. The soil, a sandy loam with gravel outcroppings, yields fair crops of potatoes, short season vegetables, oats, clover, and timothy hay. The game on the reservation included deer, bear, fox, muskrats, and water fowl.

With the advent of gambling casinos and bingo, the tribe has continued with an age-old Chippewa tradition of playing games of chance. The introduction of bingo and casinos drastically altered unemployment on the reservation. Rates fell from 80% to 10% within a couple of years. The surrounding communities have also benefited financially and reduced their dependency on federal aid.

Today, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community continues to harvest wild rice and spear fish in traditional ways. And now, utilizing state of the art technology, they continue to protect the resources of their environment for future generations. The tribe continues to use its money wisely by investing in cultural preservation and restoration projects, environmental planning of their resources, education of their community members, and social programs that enhance the general health and welfare of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community.

Tribal Services

Law Enforcement

- The Sokaogon Chippewa Community does not have a law enforcement entity
- The Sokaogon Chippewa Community has an agreement with the Forest County Sheriff to provide law enforcement services

Court System

- Four Judges
- One Prosecutor
- One Attorney
- One Clerk of Courts
- One Guardian ad Litem

Education

- Mole Lake Reservation children are educated in the Crandon and Wabeno School Districts
- Higher Education Financial Assistance
- DOT Employee Training
- Nicolet College Extension Courses

Healthcare

- Mole Lake Health Clinic
- Diabetes Program
- Honoring Our Children
- Well Women
- AODA
- Medicaid Outreach
- Walk-in Urgent Care

- Child Care
- Immunizations
- Family Practice Based Health Care

Housing

- 27 multi-family units
- 126 single family units

Social Services

- Domestic Abuse Support Services
- TRAILS Youth Group
- Family Violence Prevention
- Childcare Development Funds
- Daycare
- Wisconsin Shares W-2 Childcare
- Food Share
- Food Share Employment Training
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- General Assistance
- Native Employment Works
- Workforce Investment Act
- Kinship Care
- Medical Assistance/Badger Care
- MA Transportation
- Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program
- Weatherization
- Keep Wisconsin Warm Funds
- Funded through a variety of sources including tribal funds
- Non-tribal members comprise 20% of those receiving tribal services

Administration

- Human Resources
- Accounting
- Cultural Preservation
- Information Technology
- Environmental Protection
- Roads Maintenance
- Commodities Distribution
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Marketing and Tourism

Economic Enterprises

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community has a limited economic base that is highly dependent on tourism dollars. Plans are underway to improve the utility infrastructure which will allow for a diversification of business enterprises to begin.

- Mole Lake Casino and Bingo
- Mole Lake New Business Incubator (Nijii)
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community C-Store
- Café Manoomin Restaurant
- New in 2008 - 75 Room Hotel with Pool Facilities Attached to Casino
- New in 2008 1.3 million Youth Center