

State - Tribal Relations

Build, Foster and Preserve



Lesa Evers
Acting State Director of Indian Affairs
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State of Montana – Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs



Office of Indian Affairs

Established in 1951 as part of Executive Branch;
Serves as the Governor's liaison with Indian tribes;
Facilitates effective state-tribal communications;
Provides information and policy support on issues confronting the Indians of Montana;
Serves as advisor to Governor, Executive Branch, Legislative Branch and Congressional Delegation.



Flags of Montana's Tribal Nations



State of Montana – Governor's Office of Indian Affairs



Implementing Change

Hired Staff;

Established GAIN Council;

Changed OIA Director to cabinet level position;

Over 120 appointments to boards and councils;

Funded ICED program;

Funded Indian Education for All;

Diversity Initiative;

Policy and Legislative Changes;

And much more . . .



Commitment

The State of Montana is committed to strong tribal relations, guided by the statutory principles of:

Mutual understanding and respect;

Regular and early communication;

Cooperation and collaboration;

Accountability in addressing issues of mutual concern, and

Preservation of the state-tribal relationship.



Mutual Understanding and Respect

To work effectively, one should understand and respect:

History

Sovereignty

Culture

Individuality and Unique Characteristics

Importance of Significant Events

Protocols



Regular & Early Communication

Foundation of strong State – Tribal Relations;
Inclusion

Formal and Informal

Actions define your commitment



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Cooperation and Collaboration

Mutual Interest

Work Together

Keep End Result in Mind

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Accountability

Recognize Importance of Accountability

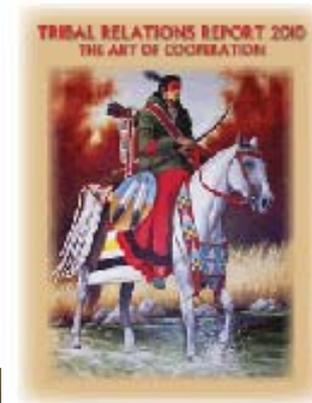
Interpretation Differences

Documentation

Annual Tribal Relations Report

Annual Tribal Relations Training

Tools and Resources



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Preservation

Strong, solid relationships matter

Commit to them

Build them

Foster them

Preserve them



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Contact Information

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