



MINNESOTA

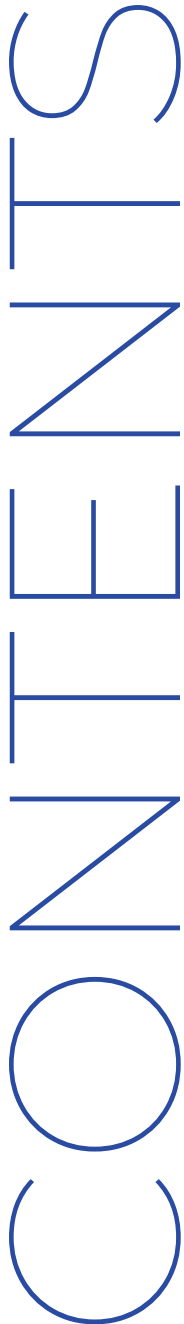
INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

2022

Legislative Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS



02.	Table of Contents
03.	Introduction
04.	Minnesota Tribes
05.	Executive Board Members
07.	Governors Office, State Legislators & State Commissioners
08.	MIAC Staff and Urban Indian Advisory Board
09.	Cultural Resource Department
11.	Language Preservation & Revitalization Grants Program
13.	The TRUTH Project
14.	Community Engagement
18.	Legislative Accomplishments
20.	Expenditures
21.	Acknowledgement

MISSION

The mission of the Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) is to protect the sovereignty of the 11 Minnesota Tribes and to ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the state of Minnesota.

FUNCTION

Established in 1963, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is the official liaison office between the eleven sovereign tribal nations and state government. The Council advises and makes recommendations to state policy makers, including the governor and legislature. MIAC proposes the yearly agenda for the annual Governor Tribal Leader summit. MIAC also fulfills duties found in MS 307.09, through its Cultural Resources program. The Cultural Resources program works to protect Indian gravesites and burial mounds statewide. MIAC is a re-granter agency and administers a Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization program through the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Additionally, MIAC is a re-granter agency and administers a Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization program through the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Preceded by:

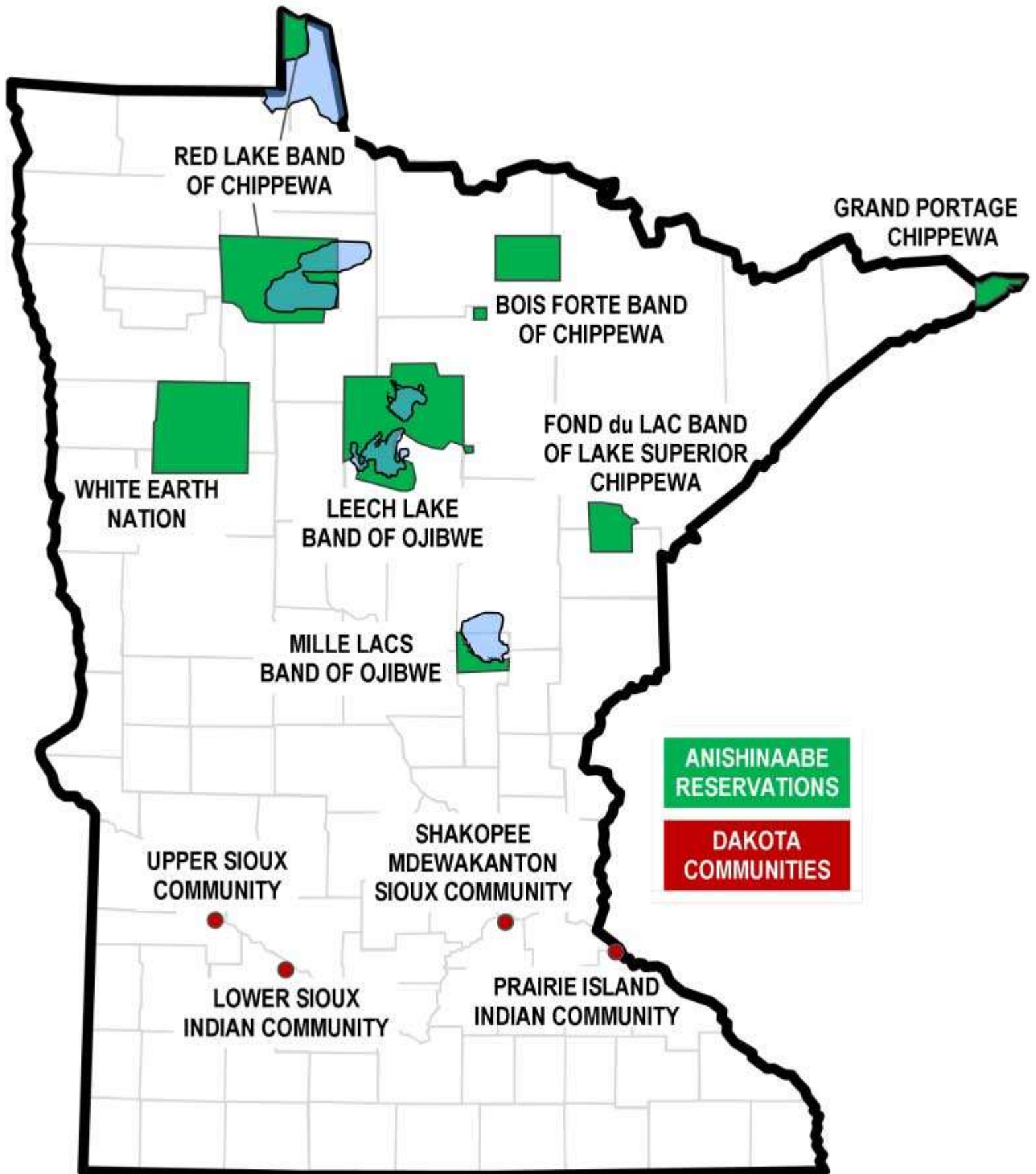
[Indian Affairs Intertribal Board](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Unlike other boards and councils, MIAC's voting members are not appointed through the state's open appointments process. Rather, MIAC appointments are made directly by each elected tribal president or chair. Although statutes permit the tribal nations to designate any of their members to serve on MIAC, in practice, the tribal chairs most often serve rather than their designees.



MN Tribal Nations



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT
ROBERT LARSEN**



**BOARD CHAIR
PRESIDENT,
LOWER SIOUX
COMMUNITY
/CANSA'YAPI**

**CHAIRMAN
ROBERT "BOBBY" DESCHAMPE**



**BOARD VICE-
CHAIR
GRAND PORTAGE
BAND OF
OJIBWE/
GICHIONIGAMING**

**CHAIRWOMAN CATHY
CHIVERS**



**BOARD MEMBER
BOIS FORTE
BAND OF
CHIPPEWA/
ZAGAAKWAAND-
AGOWININIWAG**

**CHAIRMAN KEVIN
DUPUIS, SR.,**



**BOARD MEMBER
FOND DU LAC
BAND OF LAKE
SUPERIOR
CHIPPEWA/NAH-
GAH-CHI-WA-
NONG**

**CHAIRMAN
FARON JACKSON**



**BOARD MEMBER
LEECH LAKE
BAND OF
OJIBWE/GAA-
ZAGASKWAABIG
ANIKAAG**

**PRESIDENT
JOHNNY JOHNSON**



**BOARD MEMBER
PRAIRIE ISLAND
INDIAN
COMMUNITY/
TINTA WINTA**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MELANIE
BENJAMIN**



**BOARD MEMBER
MILLE LACS
BAND OF
OJIBWE/
MISI-
ZAAGA'IGANIING**

**SECRETARY
SAMUEL R. STRONG**



**SECRETARY
RED LAKE
NATION/MISKWA
AGAMIIWI-
ZAAGALGANING**

**SECRETARY
REBECCA CROOKS-
STRATTON**



**BOARD MEMBER
SHAKOPEE
MDEWAKANTON
SIOUX
COMMUNITY/
MDEWAKANTON**

**CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL FAIRBANKS**



**BOARDMEMBER
WHITE EARTH
NATION/
GAA-
WAABAABIGAN
IKAAG**

2023 MIAC BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

HOST:
February 28
March 1 & 2

**Fon du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Executive Board Meeting
Public Board Meeting**

HOST:
May 4
May 5 & 6

**Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Executive Board Meeting
Public Board Meeting**

HOST:
August 4
August 5 & 6

**Prairie Island Indian Community
Executive Board Meeting
Public Board Meeting**

HOST:
November 20
November 21 & 22

**Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Executive Board Meeting
Public Board Meeting**



MIAC BOARD

GOVERNORS OFFICE

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan

STATE LEGISLATORS

State House of Representative
Heather Keeler

State House of Representative
Dean Urdahl

State Senator
Mary Kunesh

State Senator
Paul Utke

STATE AGENCY COMMISSIONERS

Alice Roberts Davis
Department of Administration

Paul Schnell
Department of Corrections

Heather Mueller
Department of Education

Jan Malcolm
Department of Health

Jennifer Lemaile Ho
Department of Housing Finance Agency

Jodi Harpstead
Department of Human Services

Steve Grove
Department of Employment &
Economic Development

Sarah Strommen
Department of Natural Resources

Rebecca Lucero
Department of Human Rights

Larry Herke
Department of Veterans Affairs

Mark Phillips
Department of Iron Range Resources &
Rehabilitation

Margaret Kelliher
Department of Transportation

MIAC STAFF

Executive Director:

Shannon Geshick

Executive Assistant:

Opalina Peralta

Grants and Contracts Manager:

Keegan Flaharty

Grants Administrative Specialist:

Skyler Kuczaboski

Cultural Resource Specialist, Senior:

Melissa Cerda

Cultural Resource Specialist:

Dylan Goetsch



PRINT BY: SIMONE MCLEOD

URBAN INDIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Bemidji Representative:

Tera Nelson

Duluth Representative:

Jason Loons

Minneapolis Representative:

Marissa Cummings

Minneapolis Representative:

Vacant

St. Paul Representative:

Richard Latterner

St. Paul Representative:

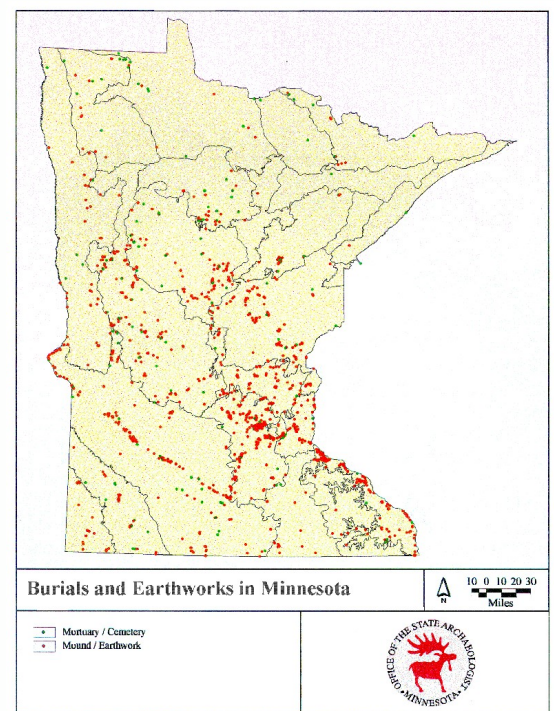
Vacant



CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The MIAC Cultural Resources team aims to protect and preserve all American Indian human remains and cemeteries older than 50 years in the state of Minnesota to fulfill the requirements of the Field Archaeology Act (M. S. 138.31-.42), the Private Cemeteries Act (M. S. 307.08), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Pub. L. No. 101-60, 104 Stat. 3048 [1990]). The MIAC team and osteology lab staff respond to unintentional disturbances of cemeteries to identify, analyze, repatriate, and rebury remains, in collaboration with the Office of the State Archaeologist and Tribal Nations.

The MIAC team advocates for tribal interests and the respectful and culturally responsive treatment of human remains, while mediating between stakeholders to identify mutually beneficial solutions. This includes incorporating American Indian knowledge into the archeological process. This requires proactive relationship building with tribes and state agencies, as well as consulting, monitoring, and reviewing proposed construction projects and projects in process (e.g., conducting cemetery assessments to delineate legal boundaries). Several parties noted that even though MIAC staff could not always be on-site at recovery, they were always responsive to questions and concerns from those who were on-site. MIAC staff ensure compliance with state and federal laws and provide culturally responsive preservation and repatriation. MIAC staff also support Tribal Historical Preservation Officers in these efforts.



CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

NAGPRA	<p>MIAC published several Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (AGPRA) notices to the federal register. This formal step follows tribal consultations over the possession of American Indian human remains, funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. These notices identify the cultural affiliation and is the final formal step needed under the federal NAGPRA process to allow the repatriation to occur to tribes.</p>
MIMBRES REPATRIATION	<p>The Mimbres collection is a collection of human remains and funerary objects that the University of Minnesota excavated from the southwestern United States nearly 100 years ago. This collection consists of several hundred ancestors and funerary objects.</p> <p>MIAC has been working with the University of Minnesota to repatriate the collection to the culturally affiliated tribes. In the fall of 2022, MIAC and the University welcomed a delegation of Pueblo representatives to Minnesota to continue the consultation process. This repatriation is tentatively expected to occur the spring/summer 2024.</p>
TWIN PORT INTERCHANGE	<p>Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) identified human remains during construction activities associated with their Twin Port Interchange on February 14th, 2023. Upon the determination that the human remains were American Indian, MIAC made several recommendations (per MS 307.08, subd 10) to MNDOT, as well as provided technical assistance for MNDOT's subsequent archaeological investigation and rescue of the disturbed human remains</p>
COOPERATIVE STEWARDSHIP SUMMIT	<p>MIAC participated in the planning committee of the cultural resource symposium. This event consisted of over 50 personnel from MNDOT, MIAC, State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), Office of State Archeologist (OSA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Tribal Historical Preservation Officers (THPO), elected tribal leaders and tribal cultural resource practitioners. This event was hosted by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. This event, hopefully the first of many, brought together numerous staff to discuss cultural resource compliances within our agencies and to identify ways to strengthen compliances.</p>
MS 307.08 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES	<p>MIAC worked with the Department of Administration and the federally recognized tribes to propose legislative changes to MS 307.08. Many of these changes help align MS 307.08 with the federal Native American Graves and Protection Act as well as assist in the sharing of roles and responsibilities of the State Archaeologist and MIAC.</p>

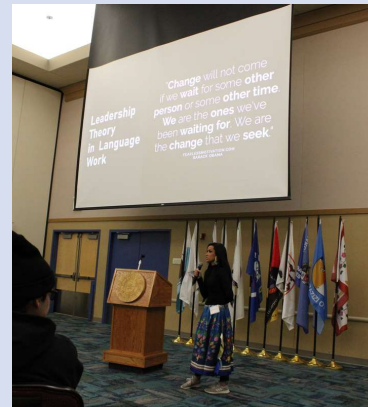
LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION GRANTS PROGRAM



PROTECT AND EMPOWER AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND ELDERS IN THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LANGUAGE, THUS MAINTAINING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY.

Dakota and Ojibwe Language Symposium 2023

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council's Language Revitalization Working Group, partnering with the Minnesota Humanities Center, hosted the 2nd Annual Dakota and Ojibwe Languages Symposium. The goal of the symposium is to bring people working in Dakota and Ojibwe languages revitalization together. We use this time to celebrate successes, highlight the current state of the field, shape future language revitalization efforts, and elevate the visibility of Indigenous languages throughout the state of Minnesota. By bringing people together, we hope this symposium serves as an opportunity for individuals to network with other Dakota and Ojibwe language professionals. A 3rd Annual Symposium is in the works and scheduled for early 2024.



Language Preservation and Revitalization Funding



The Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization Grant program, which funds revitalization of Minnesota's first languages, is underwritten by an appropriation from the state's Legacy Fund Amendment and appropriated by the state legislature to MIAC through the fiscal year 2023.

Dakota and Ojibwe Language Tribal Grant

- \$665,000 per year

Dakota and Ojibwe Language Immersion Grant

- \$600,000 per year

Dakota and Ojibwe Language Competitive Grant

- \$650,000 per year

LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDING

Competitive Grant	
American Indian OIC	\$ 37,093.13
Dakota Iapi	\$ 75,000.00
Dakota Wicohan	\$ 75,000.00
Minneapolis American Indian Center	\$ 75,000.00
University of Minnesota	\$ 75,000.00
Immersion Grant	
Fond du Lac Tribal College	\$ 100,000.00
Lower Sioux Immersion	\$ 95,105.15
Niigaane Immersion	\$ 100,000.00
Tribal Nations Grant	
Bois Forte Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Fond du Lac Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Grand Portage Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Leech Lake Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Lower Sioux Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Mille Lacs Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
PIIC Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Red Lake Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Upper Sioux Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
White Earth Tribal	\$ 66,500.00
Left-over Competitive Grant	
American Indian Family Center	\$ 99,267.30
Minneapolis American Indian Center	\$ 8,345.76
Dakota Iapi	\$ 100,000.00
Niibi Center	\$ 54,800.00

The TRUTH Project

The Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing—TRUTH—project is a Native-organized, Native-led, community-driven research movement that offers multiple recommendations on how the University of Minnesota can be in better relationship with Indigenous peoples. Our mission is to center relationality and Indigeneity in research and to meet the calls of Indigenous Nations for self-determination and healing.

MIAC in partnership with the 11 federal recognized Tribes in Minnesota released a final [report](#) which highlights the ongoing struggle for recognition of Indigenous rights and sovereignty, focusing on the systemic mistreatment of Indigenous peoples by the University of Minnesota.

The [executive report](#) offers a high-level synopsis of the TRUTH report. It outlines the different forms institutional harm has taken since 1851 and previews the report's detailed recommendations for what University of Minnesota leadership can do to take concrete, meaningful, and measurable steps towards healing.

MIAC passed the following resolutions that highlight the University of Minnesota's practices of institutional racism against Minnesota's tribal nations and provide a path for remedy by the university:

Resolution 06262020-02: Repatriation of American Indian human remains and funerary objects The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a federal law passed in 1990 requiring all federally funded institutions to repatriate and return any American Indian human remains and funerary objects in its custody. Despite NAGPRA having the force of law for 30 years, the University of Minnesota has failed to fully comply with returning human remains and continues to treat stolen sacred objects as University property for use and display at the University of Minnesota's Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum. "The University of Minnesota gives lip service to valuing racial justice and equality, yet for 30 years it has refused to obey the law requiring them to return the human remains and sacred objects of our deceased relatives which they acquired from grave robbers and profiteers," said Chairman Larsen, "MIAC demands that the University of Minnesota take immediate steps to end the inhumane practice of displaying these items, repatriate our deceased American Indian relatives to their home reservations and return all funerary objects to the Native Nations from which they came."

Resolution 06262020-03: Fulfilling the university's obligations to Minnesota's 11 tribal governments MIAC commended the University's recent outreach toward tribes under the new leadership of President Gabel, but cautioned that before new relationships can be forged, past injustices must be acknowledged.

Read Executive Director, Shannon Geshick's interview discussing the importance of the Truth Project [USA Today Full Article](#).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL SUMMIT

DECEMBER 15, 2022





Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan



2023 Legislative Session Ceremony

MIAC coordinated a Round Dance held in the State Capitol Rotunda on January 3rd. The Elected Tribal Leaders of the 11 Sovereign Nations, for the first time in MN state history, were invited to witness the swearing in of the House of Representatives immediately following. Elected Tribal Leaders and the Executive Director were invited to attend Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan's inauguration ceremony.



Sovereignty Day

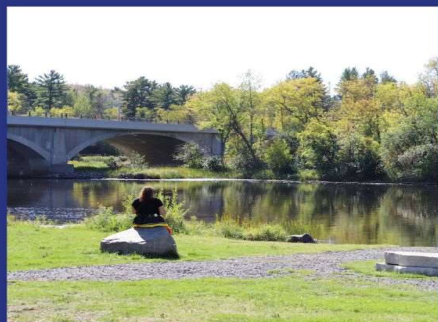
On March 13, 2023 Tribal Leaders joined with State lawmakers to share the history of Indian policy and the issues that tribal nation face.



Fond du Lac Ancestors Reburial Ceremony

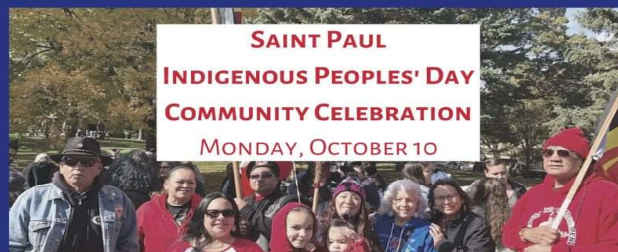


In 2022 Fond du Lac was given back land that was once the tribe's burial site and home-land to the Fond du Lac people ensuring this burial site will be respected and protected. MIAC was honored to be a part of history.



Indigenous People's Day

MIAC is proud to join with the Native Peoples Caucus and other Urban Native organizations in celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day. Governor Walz officially signed a proclamation declaring the 2nd Monday of October Indigenous Peoples Day.

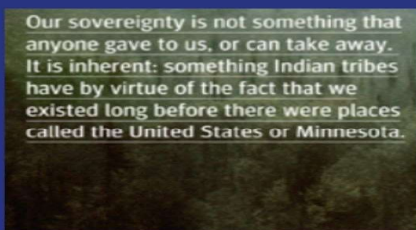
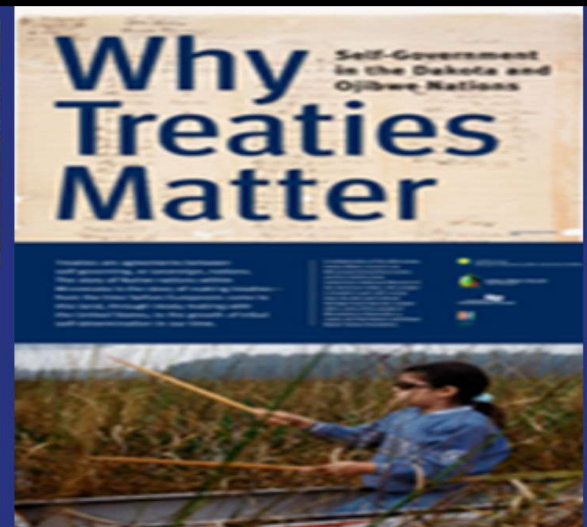


Tribal State Relations

MIAC is honored to advocate for tribal nations with the Tribal State Relations Training team to provide training and education to Minnesota state employees about American Indian tribal governments histories, cultures and traditions.



Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations is a nationally recognized, award-winning, traveling exhibit made in partnership with the Minnesota Humanities Center, MIAC & the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. This exhibit is currently at the MN State Capital.



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Private Cemeteries Act

- MN Stat, §307.08 directs how the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) and the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) address human burials, burial grounds, and cemeteries over 50 years old found outside of recorded cemeteries or un-platted graves or burials found within recorded cemeteries. Enforcement of this statute happens when:
 - Development is proposed near a known or suspected burial or cemetery,
 - Burials are accidentally disturbed during construction or earthmoving, or
 - Someone purposefully disturbs a burial or cemetery
- To reflect best practices and commonly accepted ethics surrounding the treatment of sacred cemetery sites, human burials, and human remains, the OSA and MIAC, in collaboration with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), proposed changes to M.S. 307.08. A key update to the statute ensured that state law complements and does not conflict with the federal Native American Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 USC Chapter 32, which federal agencies and institutions receiving federal funds must follow. Other changes include modernizing terminology, creating memorandums of understandings between MIAC and the OSA, more closely aligning state statute with federal law, and giving MIAC site access so they can more effectively manage known and suspected American Indian cemetery and burial sites. The changes were included in Minnesota Laws, 2023 Chapter 62 and approved by Governor Walz.



Legacy Budget Bill 2023

- The 2023 Legacy Budget Bill invests \$172 million to restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's prairies, forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitats, with projects covering a total of over 121,000 acres of land.
- The Indian Affairs Council would receive \$4.6 million to preserve Dakota and Ojibwe languages.

Indigenous Peoples Day

- Governor Walz officially proclaimed the second Monday in October Indigenous Peoples Day
- Schools must devote 1 hour on Indigenous Peoples day to
 - History of Treaties
 - History of boarding schools
 - Indigenous Language
 - Traditional medication and cultural practices
 - Sovereignty of Tribal nations
 - Indigenous contributions to American culture
 - Current issues facing Indigenous communities



Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act

- **Strengthening the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.** Minnesota enacted the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) in 1985 as a supplement to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). MIFPA was last updated in 2015. The federal ICWA was enacted to remediate the harm done by centuries of government policy aimed at eliminating Native people in the United States, and specifically the decades of intentional destruction of Native families through forced removal of children for placement in boarding schools or adoption by non-Native families. ICWA requires that child welfare agencies consult with a child's tribe and engage in active efforts to keep that child with their parents or guardians, or if removal is necessary with their extended families and kin or other members of their tribal communities. During the 2023 session, a tribally led workgroup that included staff from DHS brought forward legislation to strengthen MIFPA to considering an ultimately unsuccessful United States Supreme Court case asking the court to overturn ICWA. Changes to MIFPA were largely focused on ensuring all requirements in ICWA were incorporated into state law. Effective August 1, 2023. Policy only.



EXPENDITURES

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has a total biennial budget of approximately \$5.5 million. The biennial General Fund support is approximately \$1.7 million. Funding from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund, consisting of grants to communities for Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization, is approximately \$3.5 million.

In 2022 MIAC created three staff positions, 2 Cultural Resource Staff to enhance recovery and reburial efforts in the state. The MIAC Cultural Resource department is expanding to provide better consultative services to reduce the number of inadvertent discoveries, and in turn, save the state potentially millions of dollars. The Cultural Resource department has been increasing communication to and building stronger relationships with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers which has been an invaluable partnership in our efforts to protect American Indian graves.

Also, in 2022 MIAC hired a full time Language Grants Support Admin to assist with a growing portfolio of Dakota and Ojibwe Language Grants. MIAC is growing overall, illuminating the need for service expansion directly in correlation to the new MN Statutes Sec. 10.65 and an increase in tribal state relations.

Description	Amounts
Full-time Salary/Fringe	667,000
Part-time/Seasonal/Salary/Fringe	
Overtime	2,000
Other Employee Cost	7,000
Space Rental	50,000
Printing & Advertising	500
Professional/Technical Services	25,000
Communications	5,000
In-State Travel	40,000
Out-of-State Travel	15,000
Employee Development	5,000
State Agency Provided P/T Svs	10,000
Rate-Based MNIT Services	16,000
Agency-Specific MNIT Services	3,000
Supplies	3,000
Equipment Rental	3,000
Repairs, Alterations & Maintenance	
Statewide Indirect Costs	
Attorney General Costs	
Other Operating Costs	11,500
Equipment -Capital (over \$5K)	
Equipment - Non Capital (under \$5K)	1,000
Aid to Counties	
Aid to Cities and Towns	
Aid to School Districts	
Aid to Higher Education Institutions	
Aid to Special Districts	
Interagency Grants	
Aid to Non-Gov't Organizations	
Aid to Sovereign Entities	
	864,000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



About this report:

This report was authored, designed and completed by MIAC Communications Specialist Michele L. Poitra with editing by Executive Director Shannon Geshick and the aid of the entire MIAC staff.

CONTACT

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