

REPORT  
OF THE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS INTERTRIBAL BOARD

November 15, 1977

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State of Minnesota  
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To the Governor and the Legislature  
of the State of Minnesota

It is my pleasure to submit to the Governor of the State of Minnesota, the Honorable Rudy Perpich, and the Seventieth Legislature of the State of Minnesota, this annual report of the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board.

This report is prepared and due November 15 each year in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 3.922, Subdivision 9. The report is made available to members of the State Legislature, State Agencies, Tribal Governments, and other interested agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

  
ROGER A. JOURDAIN  
Chairman

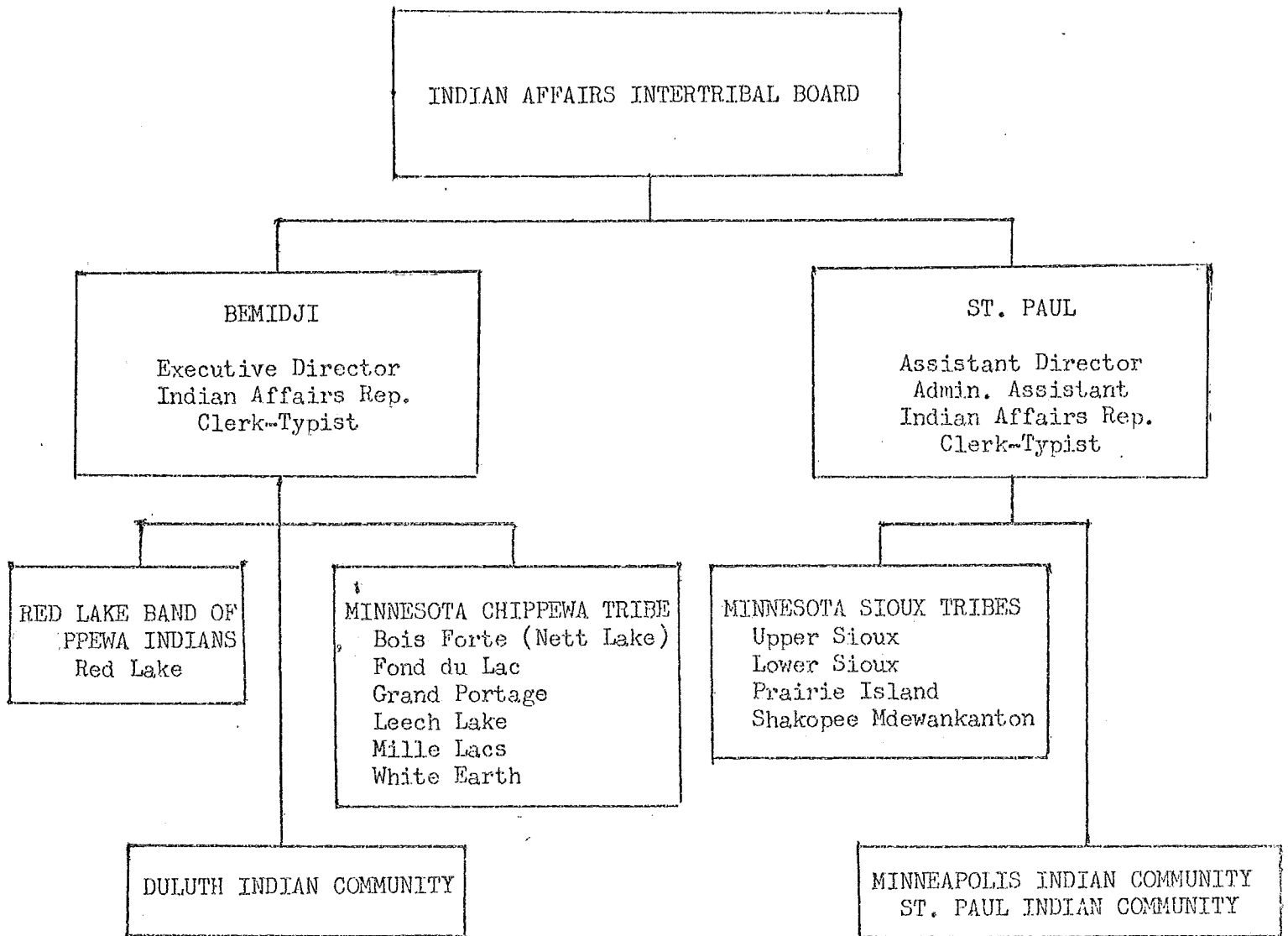




## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Organization Chart - - - - -	2
Financial Statement - - - - -	3
Introduction -- Indian Affairs In Minnesota -	4
Election of At-Large Members - - - - -	8
Urban Advisory Council - - - - -	10
Black Dog Burial Site - - - - -	13
Treatment Center Involvement - - - - -	16
Tribal Relations - - - - -	18
Inter-departmental Relations - - - - -	19
Indian Housing - - - - -	21
Women's Programs - - - - -	26
Recommendations - - - - -	27







STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Indian Affairs Intertribal Board

Financial Report  
1976-1977

RECEIPTS, TRANSFERS & EXPENDITURES

APPROPRIATION:

Balance brought forward from FY 76	\$ 5,239.69
Laws of 1976, Chap. 314, Sec. 2	155,550.00

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Total - All Receipts	\$160,789.69
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EXPENDITURES:

Salaries	\$ 96,802.72
Supplies and Expense	28,763.82
Board Members expense	9,673.83

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Total - All Expenditures	\$135,240.37
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CANCELLED - LAPSE APPROPRIATION	\$ 25,549.32
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## INDIAN AFFAIRS IN MINNESOTA

On April 13, 1976, then Gov. Wendell R. Anderson signed into law a bill amending M.S. 3.922, the law creating the Indian Affairs agency. Among the significant changes in the law was one changing the composition of the Board to the duly-elected chairmen of each of the 11 reservation governments in the state in addition to two at-large members elected by and from among Minnesota Indians who are enrolled in federally-recognized Indian tribes outside the borders of Minnesota.

Since that date, the agency has operated under the control of the new Board. The 1976 restructuring of the Board was the latest in the 13-year evolution of the agency's controlling body, and--it is widely believed by Indian Affairs experts -- set a precedent for gaining maximum tribal government input and influence in state government.

In 1963, the Minnesota Legislature made Minnesota the first state in the nation to have a state agency to deal with Indian Affairs.

The original law specified that the Indian Affairs Commission (as it was called then) would be composed of two senators appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees, two house members appointed by the Speaker of the House and three Indian people appointed by the governor. The Indians each had a specific constituency at that time: one represented the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, another the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and the third, the Sioux



Reservations in the southern part of the state.

Indian self-determination advocates complained at the time that the appointment by the governor of the Indian members was less than acceptable to Indian people, and in 1965 the Legislature listened to those concerns and transferred the power to appoint the three Indian members from the chief executive to the tribal councils of the Red Lake Chippewa, the Minnesota Chippewa and the Sioux. At the same time the law gave the Governor the power to appoint three at-large members of the commission.

Again in 1967, M.S. 3.922 underwent another change when the Legislature eliminated the three at-large posts filled by gubernatorial appointment and added to the Indian representation by creating five additional seats. One of them was an additional slot for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The other four positions were to be filled by urban Indians: two from Minneapolis, one from St. Paul and one from Duluth. This was the first time that urban Indians were acknowledged by the developing Indian Affairs law.

For the next nine years the law remained intact except for an amendment changing the name of the agency and its governing body from a commission to a board.

During that time, operations and influence of the agency gradually declined largely because of the gradual withdrawal of support by the Red Lake Tribal Council and the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Conditions deteriorated finally to the point that in 1975 there was an active effort



inspired by tribal influences to either change the direction of the agency or to abolish it completely. The Legislature listened to that cry from tribal people, and the agency received an appropriation for only one year and was required to submit a Plan for the Future to the 1976 Legislatures.

In the early summer of 1975, Fred McDougall, a Nett Lake Chippewa was named executive director of the Indian Affairs Board, and with the addition of two key staffers began the development of the plan upon which the future of the agency was to rest.

The plan was detailed in the "Special Report of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Board" submitted to the Legislature in February of 1976.

The plan called for the overhaul of the governing body to include the 11 tribal chairmen and the two at-large members, a suggestion that was fully accepted by the Legislature which showed its satisfaction and confidence by funding Indian Affairs for the remainder of the biennium and increasing the agency's complement.

The special report of 1976 listed three goals for Indian Affairs:

1. To clarify for the Legislature and State agencies the nature of tribal governments, the relationship of tribal governments to the Indian people of Minnesota and to obtain a role for tribal governments in state government through the Minnesota Indian Affairs Board.
2. To better inform the members of the Legislature as to the needs, desires and aspirations of Indian people throughout the State of Minnesota.
3. To increase cooperation between and among state agencies in the delivery of services to the Indian population of the State of Minnesota.



The exhaustive listing of the methods and activities which would be employed in the pursuit of the goals provided the basis for the extensive list of duties which the Legislature established in the amended M.S. 3,922. These duties replaced the vague charges contained in the old law, and have helped make the agency a more viable force in its dealings with other state offices, federal and local governments and private entities.

In addition to the new composition of the Board and the expanded duties found in the law, it also created a five-member Urban Advisory Council which is to advise the Board on the unique problems and concerns of Minnesota Indians who live in urban areas.

The law also changed the name to the State Indian Affairs Intertribal Board, reflecting the new tribal look of the agency.



### ELECTION OF AT-LARGE MEMBERS

The 1976 revision of M.S. 3.922 said that by April 14, 1977, an election should be held among Minnesota Indian residents who are enrolled in federally-recognized tribes outside the state who would choose two of their number for the at-large seats on the Board.

Secretary of State Joan Anderson Growe and Mary Ann McCoy, the elections officer in Ms. Growe's office, provided great assistance in development of the election process.

The election was held April 1-2 and the staff established polling places at the Board's St. Paul office; the Minneapolis Regional Native American Center and the Upper Midwest American Indian Center, also in Minneapolis; at the Board of Education Building in Duluth; at Pipestone National Monument in Pipestone; at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead; and at the North American Indian Fellowship Association in International Falls.

Before filings closed at 4:30 p.m. March 25 in the office of the Secretary of State, five candidates filed for the two at-large posts. They were Vernell Wabasha, St. Louis Park; Elgie V. Raymond, Minneapolis; Raymond Murdock, Duluth; Cletus Poitra, Champlin; and Prosper R. Smith, St. Paul.

The two top vote getters in the first-ever statewide Indian election were Mrs. Wabasha, a Yankton Sioux and director of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' Division of Indian Work, and Mr. Raymond, a Rosebud Sioux and associate professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.



Mrs. Wabasha served as Sioux representative to the Indian Affairs Board before it was revised in 1976 and was a member of our Urban Advisory Council at the time of her election.

Certified as winners by Secretary of State Grove, Mrs. Wabasha and Prof. Raymond were seated officially by the Board at its regular meeting on April 20, 1977, bringing the Board to its full statutory strength for the first time.

The entire election process was accompanied by a strong publicity effort which was very well received by media throughout the state, and the election enjoyed superb coverage. In addition to the help the staff received from the Secretary of State and Mrs. McCoy, we also gratefully acknowledge assistance provided by the Minnesota Highway Patrol, the Minneapolis Police Department and the State Capitol Security Force in securing ballot boxes while polls were closed between 8 p.m. April 1 and 8 a.m. Saturday, April 2. The State Troopers further provided great help in delivering ballot boxes from all the polling places throughout the state to the office of the Secretary of State where returns were canvassed at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 4.



### URBAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Urban Advisory Council is established by law and provides that of the five members at least one will be from the city of Minneapolis, at least one from the city of St. Paul and at least one from the city of Duluth. The legislative intent here was to assure that the Council would not be dominated by any one city and also to allow the possibility of seating Indians who live in suburbs of the cities of the first class.

Our 1976 report stated that the Board, which specifically has the power to appoint the five members of the UAC, had agreed to be guided by results of an advisory election at the request of the Duluth Indian community, and Les Northrup, a member of the old Indian Affairs Board, sits on the council as a result of that agreement and the subsequent advisory election.

The report said further that the originally-appointed interim members from Minneapolis and St. Paul were to determine whether the Indian people in their respective communities wanted to indicate their preferences through advisory elections or whether they were willing to let the Board appoint members without benefit of the election process.

It was decided that advisory elections were not necessary and the interim appointees from Minneapolis and St. Paul were named full-fledged members. Appointed were Mrs. Wabasha and Emily Peake, another former member of the old Indian Affairs Board, as Minneapolis representatives, and Pandy Lussier and Raymond Farley as St. Paul representatives.



When Mrs. Wabasha was elected an at-large member of the full Board in April, the Board appointed Patrick Sayers of Robbinsdale to her post on the UAC.

Officers of the UAC are Lussier, chairman; Northrup, vice chairman; and Peake, secretary,

The Council has met nearly once a month and is gaining credibility with the urban Indian communities. A number of the Council's recommendations have been accepted by the Indian Affairs Board.

Those proposals include the advisory elections for Duluth and St. Paul representatives to the American Indian Advisory Board of the State Drug and Alcohol Authority (an assignment which is being done as the report is written and which will be reported in detail in the 1978 report), the suggested legislation to create an Indian office and advisory committee in the Employment Services Division, development of an Indian advisory committee in the Corrections Department, and other ideas of significance to Minnesota Indian people.

Lussier and the Council also have established relations with various local government agencies in Minneapolis and St. Paul and the Metropolitan Council while Northrup is working with the State Employment Services office in Duluth in an effort to expand employment opportunities for Indians in the area.

The UAC and staff currently are exploring the possibility of conducting seminars to acquaint local units of government with tribal government, the Board and the UAC, and are searching for



funding to develop informational brochures and other printed material to accomplish the same educational purpose.

The assistant director and the Indian Affairs representative for the southern part of the state are assigned to work with the UAC.



### THE BLACK DOG BURIAL SITE

Late in the winter of 1976-77, the Indian Affairs office was contacted by Les Peterson, a State Historical Society archaeologist assigned to the Department of Transportation. Mr. Peterson reported that a problem regarding the protection of Indian burial grounds might be developing in the area of the Cedar Avenue bridge construction in Egan in Dakota County.

Mr. Peterson disclosed that the contractor had entered into an agreement with a private landowner in the area to borrow gravel from his land for use in the bridge erection. He noted that the area which would be dug up included land where Indian burials were uncovered in 1942.

The contractor, Park Construction Co., cooperated with the Historical Society and the Indian Affairs Board in the potentially explosive situation. The staff and the archaeologist agreed that conditions warranted halting the operation until a course of action could be determined. After extensive discussions, it was decided that the apparent burial ground should be searched for possible graves. Park provided a scraper and operator and Mr. Peterson and an assistant were on hand for the search which began just after dark on a cold, clear morning in February.

The scraper inched off the soil and the archaeologists followed in its wake. Nothing was discovered for several hours. Then just before dark, the archaeologists found absolute proof of an Indian burial. Park closed down the operation in the burial ground area and again and more talks were held.



After a few weeks and with the express approval of the Sioux Intertribal Council, it was decided that the area should be searched completely to determine exactly how many burials were there.

At that time, archaeologists determined that the burials came from the village of Black Dog, a Mdewankanton Sioux leader who lived along the Minnesota River with his people more than 100 years ago.

Again the Park Construction firm scraper and operator and Archaeologist Peterson went to work in the March chill. Topsoil in the entire area was chipped away a bit at a time until finally it was determined there were seven grave sites in the area.

Park then stopped the operation and kept away from the burial grounds.

However, problems ensued with the private landowner who proved to be unmoved by the sanctity of the burial ground and the traditional Indian respect for such land. He wanted the burials removed.

Park, meanwhile, mined and removed the gravel from around the burial ground area and by spring the old burial ground jutted upward like a wide pillar.

The president of the construction company expressed fear that the burial ground would be toppled by rain and erosion or that vandals or others might push it over, disturbing the burials to the greatest extent possible. The staff also was concerned that treasure seekers and grave robbers might find the burials.

With these concerns in mind, the staff again approached the Sioux Intertribal Council, and the members adopted a resolution calling for removal of the remains of their ancestors and reburial



on Indian land. It was felt that this course of action as abhorrent as it appeared on the surface was nonetheless the most expedient and respectful alternative available.

It then remained for the staff to arrange the removal and reburial. The lack of funds available for the project caused great problems.

Working with the Historical Society, the Governor's Office and the Sioux Intertribal Council, eleven bodies were removed. In order to save money, staff of this agency and Historical Society volunteers actually dug up the remains cleaned them and prepared them for reburial and delivered the remains to the Sioux cemetery at Morton where they were reinterred on September 9.

Our experience in this sad episode has inspired the recommendation included in this report regarding Indian burial grounds.



### TREATMENT CENTER INVOLVEMENT

The so-called Governor's Bill of 1976 provided substantial funding for Indian chemical dependency programs, including money to establish a primary residential treatment center.

The Indian Affairs agency, at the request of the State Drug and Alcohol Authority, became involved in development of the treatment center late in 1976, and has continued to provide assistance in the formidable challenge of creating the nation's first Indian primary treatment center -- an accomplishment which will further enhance Minnesota's reputation as the unchallenged leader in the field of treating alcoholism and other chemical addictions.

The staff helped in incorporating the governing body of the treatment center, a non-profit corporation which contracts with the State Drug and Alcohol Authority to build and operate the center. The non-profit corporation is called the Minnesota Indian Primary Residential Treatment Center, Inc., and its Board of Directors consists of tribal leaders who are members of the Indian Affairs Board.

Elwin Benton of Duluth, a former executive director of the Indian Affairs Board and a national authority in the field of Indian alcoholism and drug abuse treatment, was named as administrator of the center which bears the Ojibway name "Mask-ka-wisen" which means "be strong, accept help."

After a preliminary search of existing facilities, early efforts at site location focused on the Bald Eagle Camp near Cass Lake on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. However, the facility is owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and leased by



Bemidji State University and negotiations to obtain the site proved unfruitful, and it was determined that a new facility should be constructed.

However, because of the impending end of the biennium, it was necessary to ask the 1977 Legislature to reappropriate the money for treatment center construction. The Legislature agreed to this action, and the search for a building site began anew.

Mr. Benton asked for proposals from the Indian reservations for location of the facility, and at a meeting in July in Brainerd the Treatment Center Board voted to accept a proposal from the Fond du Lac Reservation.

Since that time, this agency has worked closely with Mr. Benton in efforts to get construction of the center underway. Because of the various government agencies involved in the endeavor and the frustrations sometimes inherent in cross-governmental activities ground has not been broken as this report is submitted. Plans and specifications have been developed and a general contract for building the 28-bed facility should be let before the end of 1977.

The staff and Mr. Benton are seeking federal funds for additions to the center and are hopeful that these efforts will be successful in the future so that the center can eventually be expanded to 60-bed size, complete with a detoxification unit. Mr. Benton reports that Mask-ka-wisen will be in full compliance with existing codes, rules and regulations required by the various regulatory agencies.



## TRIBAL RELATIONS

In the last year, the agency's staff has improved and expanded relations with the tribal governments in Minnesota. We are especially pleased with the increased attention devoted to the four Sioux reservation councils and the Minnesota Sioux Tribes, Inc., the legal successor to the old Sioux Intertribal Council.

This accomplishment was made possible by a staff realignment and the success of efforts to bring the staff to full complement which was achieved in the Spring of 1977.

The Board itself and the staff had representatives at important national annual sessions of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association and the National Congress of American Indians, the two most powerful national alliances of Indians.

In recent months, the staff has worked closely with key personnel of the various components of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe as well as with Fred McDougall, executive director of the Tribe and the executive director of the Board during its transitional period. McDougall is recognized by tribal interests as the architect of the Indian Affairs revision.



## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS

On June 24, a representative of the Division of Economic Opportunity in the Governor's Manpower Office contacted our office for assistance in administering the Fuel Crisis Intervention Program on the Minnesota Indian Reservations. The program, he explained, was offered by the U.S. Community Services Administration and was designed to help pay old and anticipated heating costs for low income and poor families with priority going to heads of households aged 65 and more.

A total of \$200,000 was available for use by Indians on the reservations, and the federal guidelines held that the money had to be spent by August 30.

Faced with the time restraint, this agency assigned the administrative assistant to work full-time on the project, and the program was a great success with all funds expended by the federal deadline and help extended to the most Indian families possible.

We also are working with the Governor's Manpower Office in the distribution of monies from the Federal Energy Administration for weatherization of housing on reservations. A total of \$21,350 currently is available for this project.

Indian Affairs also is cooperating with the Department of Transportation in its program to recruit Indian engineers. Part of this effort involves attracting Indian students to take engineering at Purdue University under terms of a relationship between that Big 10 institution and DOT.



We also are assisting DOT's Office of Transit Administration in a program which provides financial assistance for purchase of vehicles for transporting the elderly and handicapped.

Earlier in the report we cited the extensive contact our staff has had with the Historical Society in the Black Dog Burial site incident and with the Drug and Alcohol Authority in the treatment center development and the Duluth and St. Paul advisory board elections.

In addition, Indian Affairs has worked closely with the Governor's Office in a number of matters and with the State Department of Education, particularly in helping implement new laws relating to bi-lingual education and the Indian Scholarship Committee.

We also have established contact with Employment Services in the Duluth area in an effort to help develop Indian job opportunities in that part of the state, and look forward to establishing a closer working relationship with Employment Services in other areas with significant Indian populations.

Indian Affairs is working with the Economic Development Department in pursuit of funding for loans to Indian entrepreneurs, and with DNR in its on-going involvement in Indian hunting and fishing rights.

This past year for the first time, Indian Affairs came in closer contact with the Revenue Department as a result of the sweeping ramifications of the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bryan v. Itasca* and its impact on state taxation policies on Indian reservations.

As a matter of routine, the office has contact with Health, DPW and Corrections.



## INDIAN HOUSING

In recent years, the Minnesota Legislature has been channeling more funds to Indian programs, and we believe the Indian housing program made possible by a 1976 appropriation for loans is a classic example of the success such legislative efforts have made possible. Herewith, is a report from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Housing Corporation which we believe adequately illustrates what can be accomplished through state government-tribal government cooperation:

In 1976 the Legislature appropriated \$34.2 million for housing. Of this, \$5 million was set aside for Indian housing for the Red Lake Reservation, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Sioux communities. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe received \$3.2 million from that appropriation. Through its 1976 Legislation, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to make an effort to provide adequate housing for its Indian population.

### MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE'S HOME LOAN PROGRAM

Following passage of the 1976 legislation, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe entered into negotiations with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency concerning use of the funds appropriated by the Legislature. As a result, the Tribe created a state non-profit corporation to run the Tribe's home loan program. An agreement between the State, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Housing Corporation was signed at the Governor's office on September 17, 1976. The Board of Directors of the corporation then established a loan



committee with representatives from each of the six reservations to review the applications which were made. A staff was hired, publicity given to the program and applications began to arrive in September of 1976.

With the \$3.2 million appropriation, the Minnesota Chippewa Housing Corporation has made 121 loans totaling \$3,105,177.80 or an average of \$25,661.80 per loan. These loans have been made as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Total of Loans Made</u>
Fond du Lac Reservation	10	\$ 253,357.98
Leech Lake Reservation	35	923,199.21
Mille Lacs Reservation	11	270,822.23
Nett Lake/Bois Forte	14	238,637.72
White Earth Reservation	32	780,874.27
Grand Portage Reservation	none	none
Off Reservation	<u>19</u>	<u>638,186.65</u>
TOTALS:	121	\$3,105,177.80

The above loans were made for constructing new homes, purchasing existing homes, rehabilitating homes and buying mobile homes. The following is a breakdown of the types of loans made:

<u>On Reservation</u>	<u># of Loans</u>
New Construction	49
Purchasing Existing Homes	35
Rehabilitation	13
Mobile Homes	5
<u>Off Reservation</u>	
New Construction	7
Purchasing Existing Homes	12



Rehabilitation	none
Mobile Homes	none

It should be pointed out that mobile home purchases have been discouraged. Loans for mobile homes have only been approved in areas where no existing homes were available and the cost of new construction was prohibitive.

Thus, in one year the Tribe's home loan program has become a substantial lender with 121 loans outstanding totaling slightly over \$3 million. The Tribe and its housing corporation are extremely pleased with the performance of the home loan program to date. It should be noted here that the delivery system which was established by the Tribe and its housing corporation was set up only after many meetings with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, accountants, attorneys, bankers, insurance companies and Tribal leaders. It was the intent of all those involved to create a professional and efficient loan operation to service and protect the loan funds.

#### UNMET NEEDS

##### Revolving Loan Aspects

The agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the Tribe and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Housing Corporation permits the Tribe to re-loan the money as it is paid back. This is an excellent idea and it will allow the 1976 appropriation to help meet future needs. However, due to the low interest rate charged and the relatively small amount



of loans outstanding, it will take 12 months after all the loans are made to accumulate enough money to re-make another \$30,000 loan. Thus, more funds are needed to meet current needs and to expand the revolving loan feature of the present program.

#### Additional Housing Needed for Reservations

The home loan program currently has 247 loan applications outstanding for applicants who reside on or near one of the six reservations. It should be noted that loan applications were only accepted from September, 1976, to April, 1977. It was the feeling of the program that accepting applications after all funds were committed would raise hopes unnecessarily. It is the feeling of all the Tribal leaders from the various reservations that if more funds are available, the program will once again be swamped with applications from residents of the six reservations.

It should be noted that the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development has provided some housing opportunities for reservation Indians in the past and has several new projects underway at the present time. The HUD programs on the reservations, however, are designed for the low income residents of the reservations. Unfortunately, there has not been enough HUD money to take care of all the low income residents of the reservations, let alone begin to handle the needs of those with moderate incomes. For example, the Leech Lake Housing Authority has 402 people on its waiting list for the houses which it has. Many of these people have been on



the waiting list for several years. Both the Cass County Social Services Agency and the Social Service Agency of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will attest to the fact that it is virtually impossible to find housing for low and moderate income residents who would like to live on or near the Leech Lake Reservation. This is true with the other reservations as well.

Off Reservation/Urban Housing Needs

The home loan program currently has 200 families on its waiting list who live off the six Chippewa Reservations. Of these, 140 are residents of Duluth, Minneapolis or St. Paul; 60 are classified as rural. It should be pointed out that the applications for off-reservation housing were only taken for four months (September, 1976, to January 15, 1977). If applications were to be opened again, it is anticipated that several hundred new applications would be received from the off reservation/urban areas.

The Indian Affairs Board is proud of the record of the tribes in administering the housing money which was made available by the 1976 Legislature. The Legislature demonstrated its commitment to improve the housing needs of Minnesota Indians and also showed faith in the tribal governments by permitting them to administer the housing programs with the help of MHFA.



### WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

In June, 1977, the Minnesota Indian Affairs staff acting at the request of many Minnesota Indian women, held meetings to discuss the feasibility of establishing a statewide steering committee to address the needs and concerns of Indian women.

The first meeting of concerned Indian women was held in Brainerd and a steering committee was established. Subsequently, meetings were held in Duluth, St. Paul and Cass Lake.

As a result of the meetings, Indian women established a non-profit charitable and educational organization. That corporation, American Indian Women of Minnesota, Inc., is a statewide group, with the primary objective being to provide training programs to enhance the self-awareness and self-esteem of Indian women.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Indian Affairs Board has approved the following recommendations to the 1978 Minnesota Legislature for enactment and we present them now:

1. Increased funding for Indian home loans. Perhaps the most successful program devised for Minnesota Indians by the Legislature, the housing program -- as mentioned earlier in this report -- needs additional money to answer immediate Indian housing needs. More funds would permit quicker revolving of the money and faster availability for new loans. The housing program is not a handout and, we believe, represents a most prudent and thoughtful use of state money.

2. Special Sioux Home Improvement Grant. It is anticipated that this once only request will greatly benefit the four Sioux reservations in their efforts to secure adequate housing in their communities.

To date, the Minnesota Sioux have had limited success in their housing efforts because of unique land title problems, but this request will allow for upgrading of existing housing within the Sioux communities and should solve current home improvement needs. This recommendation represents the first totally Sioux request handled by this agency.

3. Indian Burials and Revision of M.S. 307.08. The inequities and weaknesses of this statute, as presently written, were made very evident to this agency this year when we made our first attempt to utilize it in connection with the Black Dog Village incident.

The legal as well as emotional problems involved in preservation



of Indian burial sites are very complex and it is anticipated that a comprehensive revision of M.S. 307.08 must be made to insure proper dignity and preservation is afforded all Indian burial sites within Minnesota.

4. Sioux Legal Assistance. The Sioux communities need funding for legal assistance programs which would put the Sioux on an equal level with those Indian legal assistance programs currently operational on other reservations and metropolitan areas with state funding. Efforts to include the four Sioux communities as clients of the ongoing programs in Minneapolis and St. Paul have proved impossible.

5. Creation of an Indian specialist and advisory committee in Employment Services. Special action needs to be taken to relieve the substantial unemployment suffered by Indians in Minnesota. To accomplish this, we recommend establishment of an Indian office in the Employment Services Division along with an advisory committee to assist the Indian employment specialist.

6. Indian name change. Indian Affairs again recommends enactment of a law changing all references to "Native Americans" to "American Indians" in Minnesota Statutes.

7. Business Loans. The last Legislature received a bill to appropriate \$500,000 for business development loans to Indians. The measure is awaiting further action, and the Board restates its support.