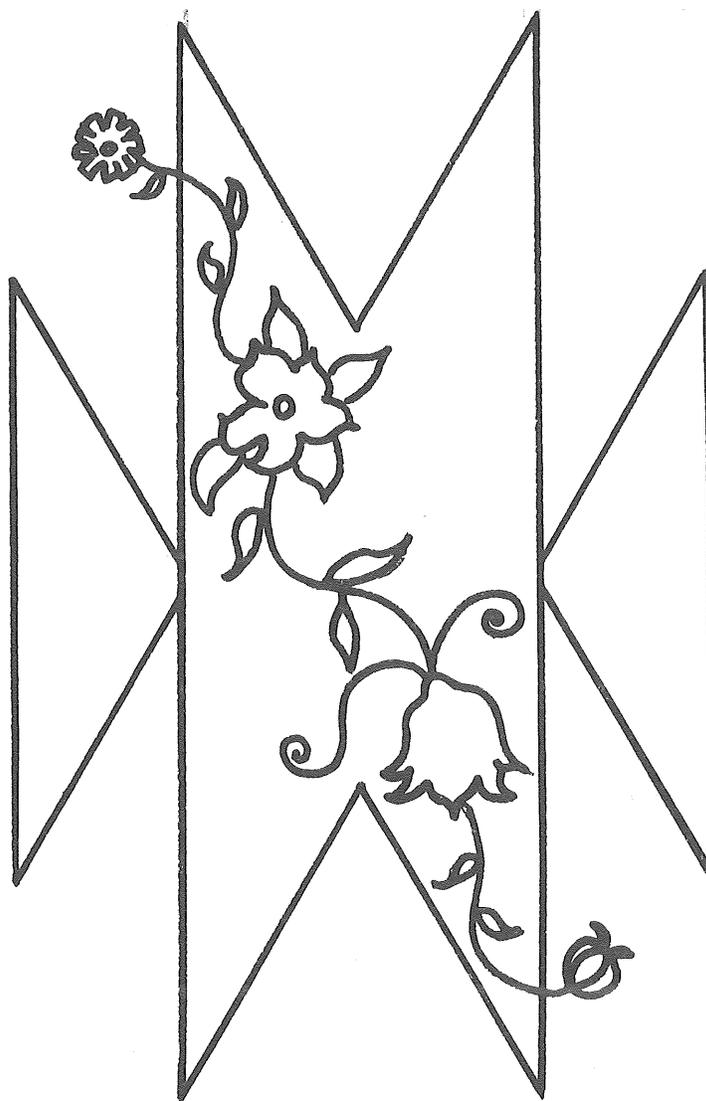


*MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS  
INTERTRIBAL BOARD*

1978

*ANNUAL REPORT*



**REPORT  
OF THE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS INTERTRIBAL BOARD**

November 15, 1978

State Government Service Center  
1705 West Highway #2  
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601  
Phone: (218) 755-3825

N360 Griggs-Midway Building  
1821 University Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104  
Phone: (612) 296-3611



State of Minnesota

# INDIAN AFFAIRS INTERTRIBAL BOARD

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November 14, 1978

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 and the Seventy-First 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger A. Jourdain".

ROGER A. JOURDAIN  
Chairman

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



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## Members of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board

### Voting Members

Roger A. Jourdain, Chairman  
Red Lake Reservation

Norman Campbell  
Prairie Island Reservation

Arthur Gahbow, Vice Chairman  
Mille Lacs Reservation

Amy Stade  
Shakopee Reservation

William J. Houle  
Fond du Lac Reservation

Walter LaBatte Jr.  
Upper Sioux Reservation

Darrell Wadena  
White Earth Reservation

Michael Prescott  
Lower Sioux Reservation

James Hendrickson  
Grand Portage Reservation

Vernell Wabasha (At-Large)  
St. Louis Park

Hartley White  
Leech Lake Reservation

Elgie V. Raymond (At-Large)  
Minneapolis

Gary Donald  
Bois Forte (Nett) Reservation

### Urban Advisory Council

The council is appointed by the Board and consists of five urban American Indians residing in the vicinity of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. At least one member of the council is a resident of each of the mentioned cities.

### Ex-Officio Members

The Governor

The Commissioner of Human Rights

The Commissioner of Economic Development

The Commissioner of Corrections

The Executive Director of the Minnesota  
Housing Finance Agency

The Commissioner of Iron Range  
Resources and Rehabilitation

The Commissioner of Natural Resources

The Commissioner of Health

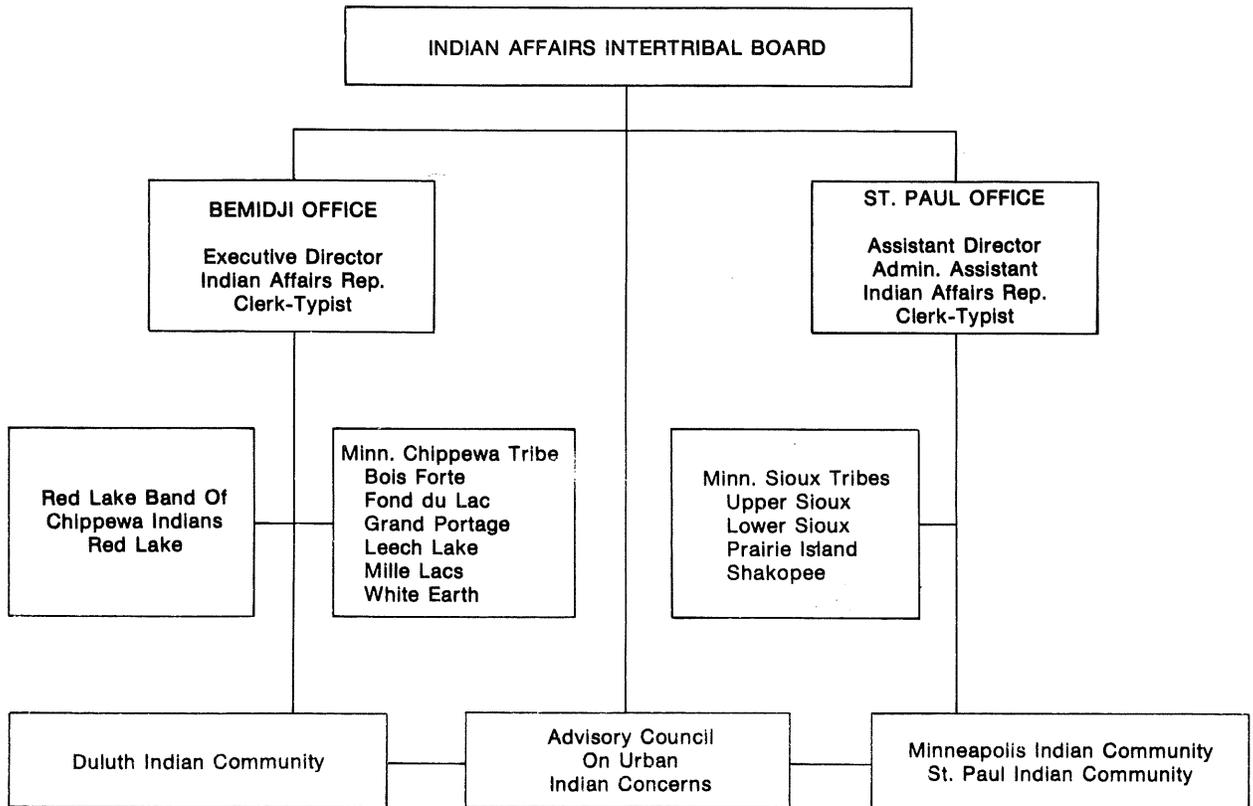
The Commissioner of Education

Three members of the State Senate

The Commissioner of Public Welfare

Three members of the State House of  
Representatives

### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Indian Affairs Intertribal Board

Financial Report  
1977-1978

RECEIPTS, TRANSFERS & EXPENDITURES

APPROPRIATION:

Laws of 1977, Chap. 455, Sec. 52

\$159,886.00

Total - All Receipts

\$159,886.00

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries

\$107,871.51

Supplies and Expense

27,607.99

Board Members Expense

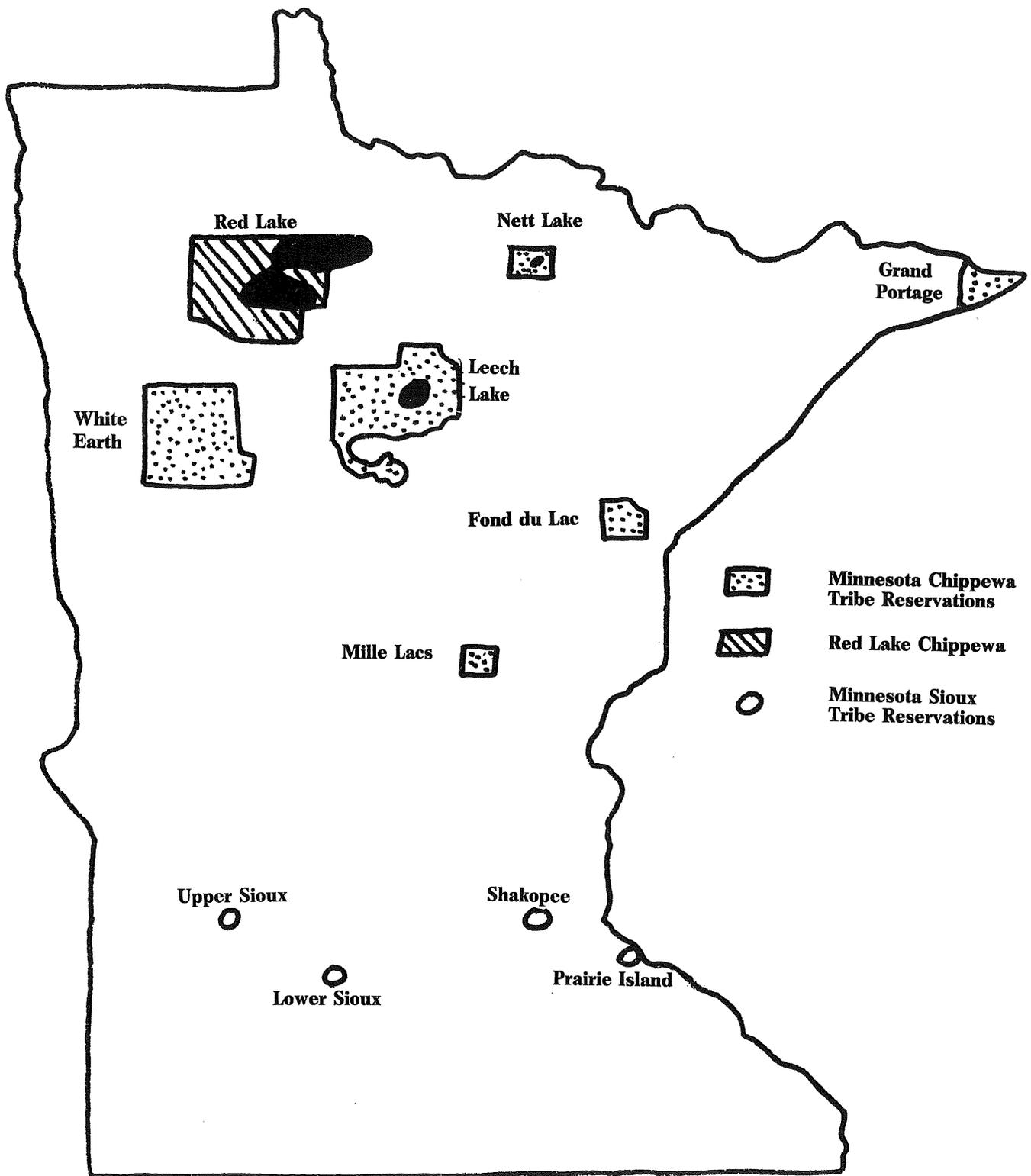
7,619.07

Total All Expenditures

\$143,098.57

CANCELLED - LAPSE APPROPRIATION

\$ 16,787.43



THE 11 RESERVATIONS OF MINNESOTA

# THE INDIAN AFFAIRS INTERTRIBAL BOARD

## IN

### MINNESOTA

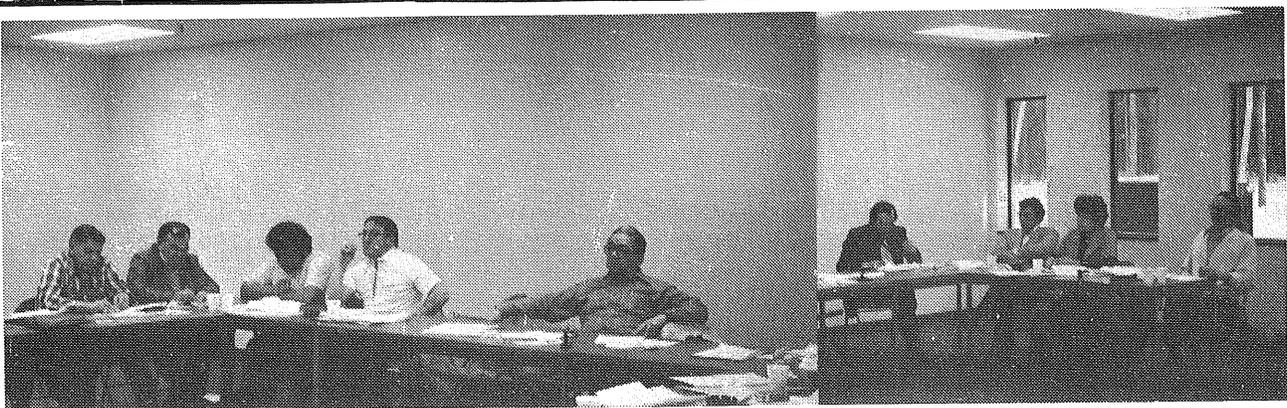
The current Indian Affairs Intertribal Board is a result of a 15 year evolutionary experience that set a precedent for gaining maximum tribal government input and influence in state government. In 1963, the Minnesota Legislature made Minnesota the first state in the nation to have a state agency to deal with Indian Affairs. This was accomplished through Minnesota Statute 3.922, the law creating the original Indian Affairs Commission. In 1967, this Statute was amended to include the voice of urban American Indians. 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. In 1976, the Statute was again amended creating changes in the structure of the Board. Since that date the

agency has been operating under the control of the new Board.

Currently the voting Board consists of one duly elected chairman 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. There is also included in the composition of the Board, five non-voting Urban Advisory Council members appointed by the above Board. At least one of the five members is from the city of Minneapolis, at least one from the city of St. Paul and at least one from the city of Duluth. This council advises the Board on the unique problems and concerns of Minnesota Indians who live in urban areas.

Additional input is received in the form of ex-officio membership which includes the Governor, various Commissioners, members of the State House and members of the State Senate.

The Board has authority to employ the staff that accomplishes the liaison responsibilities between the Intertribal Board and the State Legislature. The primary staff office is maintained in Bemidji with an auxiliary office in St. Paul. The staff consists of the following employees: (1) An Executive Director (2) An Assistant Director (3) An Administrative Assistant (4) Two Indian Affairs Representatives and (5) Two Clerk-typists. The staff is also incorporating a student internship program which has proved extremely successful.



Members of the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board are shown here at a meeting at the Government Service Center in Bemidji. The agency's main office is located in the center while another office is maintained in the Griggs-Midway Building in St. Paul to serve the metropolitan Indian community and the Sioux Reservations. The Board meets at least quarterly.

The primary duties of the Board are to:

1. Clarify for the legislature and state agencies the nature of tribal governments and the relationship of tribal governments to the Indian people of Minnesota;
2. Assist the Secretary of State in establishing an election of at-large members of the Board;
3. Make recommendations to members of the legislature on desired and needed legislation for the benefit of the statewide Indian community and communicate to the members of the legislature when legislation has or will have an adverse effect on the statewide Indian community;
4. Provide, through the elected apparatus of the Board, an effective conduit for programs, proposals and projects to the legislature submitted by tribal governments, organizations, committees, groups or individuals;
5. Provide a continuing dialogue with members of the appropriate tribal governments in order to improve their knowledge of the legislative process, state agencies and governmental due process;
6. Assist in establishing Indian advisory councils in cooperation with state agencies delivering services to the Indian community;
7. Assist state agencies in defining what groups, organizations, committees, councils or individuals are eligible for delivery of their respective services;
8. Assist in providing resources, tribal and other, in the delivery of services to the statewide Indian community;
9. Act as a liaison between local, state and national units of government in the delivery of services to the Indian population of Minnesota;
10. Assist state agencies in the implementation and updating of studies of services delivered to the Indian community;
11. Provide, for the benefit of all levels of state government, a continuing liaison between those governmental bodies and duly elected tribal governments and officials;
12. Interact with private organizations involved with Indian concerns in the development and implementation of programs designed to assist Indian people, insofar as they affect state agencies and departments; and
13. Act as an intermediary, when requested and if necessary between Indian interests and state agencies and departments when questions, problems or conflicts exist or arise.

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT:

### AN INHERENT RIGHT

In 1934, Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act, also known as the Wheeler-Howard Act. The law recognizes the **inherent right of Indian tribes to operate through governments of their own creation.**

The State of Minnesota has 11 Indian reservations - each with its own government within its borders. All the governments are organized under Wheeler-Howard with the exception of Red Lake. Red Lake officially became a reservation by the Treaty of January 14, 1889. In 1918, seven hereditary chiefs documented their authority and appointed a five man tribal council. In 1958, the Red Lake tribal council revised its constitution under which it presently exists.

Along with Red Lake, Minnesota reservations include White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Nett Lake, Fond du Lac and Grand Portage -- which together

form a confederation known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe -- and four Sioux reservations: Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, Shakopee Mdewakanton and Prairie Island. Each reservation has a governing body: tribal councils at Red Lake and the four Sioux communities and Reservation Business Committees (RBCs) at the six reservations which comprise the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. In addition, the confederation of the six reservations comprising the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is governed by a Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) composed of the chairman and secretary-treasurer of each of the six RBCs.

The four Sioux tribal councils are joined in an eight-member body composed of the chairman of each council plus an at-large member from each of the reservations. The organization is called the Minnesota Sioux Tribe, Inc., and is an outgrowth of the original confederation, the Minnesota Sioux Intertribal Council. There also is an alternate member from each of the Sioux communities.

## THE MINNESOTA MODEL

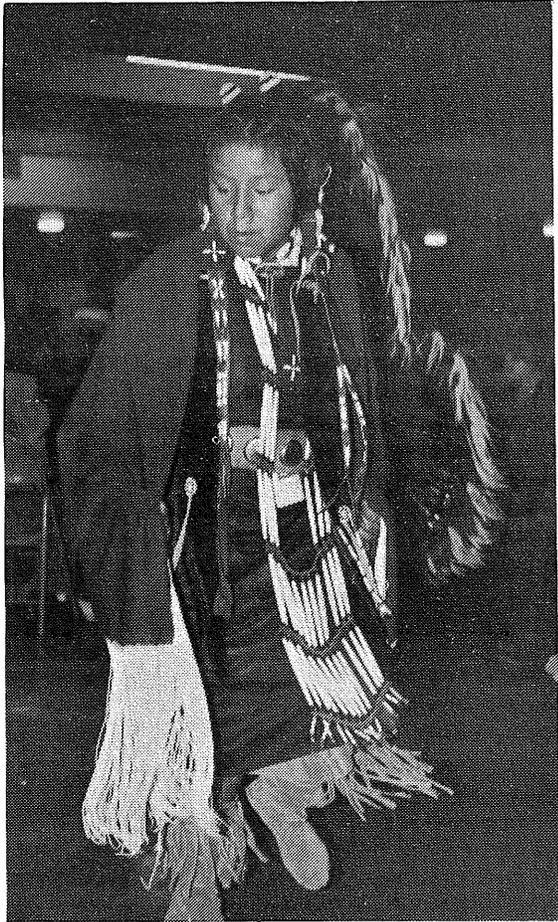
*The cooperation between state and tribal governments brought about by operations of the state Indian Affairs Intertribal Board has captured the attention of other states with significant Indian populations.*

*"We have received inquiries from several other states who are interested in setting up similar agencies on revising their existing Indian offices," said Executive Director Donald G. Gurnoe, Jr.*

*"We have met extensively with representatives of other states in our area who want to model an agency after ours, and we have cooperated with them in every way possible."*

*Gurnoe said the development of the office over the years can help other states avoid some of the pitfalls faced and conquered by the Minnesota operation in the past.*

*"The cooperation between state government offices and the tribal governments we have achieved in Minnesota is not at all common in other states," Gurnoe said.*



Pow-wow scenes such as those shown here are duplicated both indoors and outside during the course of the year. Pow-wows are important social events for Minnesota Indians and help sustain a centuries-old culture.

University of Minnesota officials contacted the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board about the establishment of an Advisory Council to the American Indian Learning and Resource Center in addition to the needs of American Indian students and expenditures of Scholarship monies within the University of Minnesota for American Indian students. Three motions passed by our Board on July 20, 1978 regarding these topics were:

1. That the Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board support the establishment of an Advisory Council to the American Indian Learning and Resource Center at the University of Minnesota with such authority and membership as recommended by the Task

#### HUD MAY FUND BLOCK

#### GRANT WORKER IN BOARD

#### OFFICE

In late 1978, the MIAIB submitted an application to HUD for a grant to establish a Regional Technical Assistance Program. This program will provide assistance to Indian tribes and communities in planning, developing, and administering Community Development Block Grant Programs. It is based on the 1977 amendment to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 which authorizes grants for this purpose. Recipients will be those Indian tribes and communities in Minnesota participating in CDBG Programs.

This one year program will use a Technical Assistance Specialist (TAS) to give training and assistance in assessing community

#### A NEW ROLE FOR THE BOARD

Force on American Indian concerns in the implementation report to the president of the University of Minnesota dated June 5, 1978.

2. That the Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board monitor the request of the University of Minnesota to the Minnesota State Legislature relative to the needs of American Indian students at the University of Minnesota.
3. That the Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board develop a mechanism to monitor the expenditure of scholarship monies within the University of Minnesota for American Indian students.

The American Indian Learning and Resource Center is a newly

needs, fixing priorities, grant application writing, and in the implementation and administration of programs.

The Technical Assistance Specialist will respond to requests for assistance as well as do outreach activities with an emphasis on direct assistance to tribes and communities. This will increase Indian access to and utilization of available CDBG funds. The establishment of a track record of successful programs will result.

The Technical Assistance Program will be administered by MIAIB with consultation by a HUD regional field representative, and will have a base in the St. Paul office. Budget resources for this program will rely almost entirely on the \$40,000 grant. Assistance to tribes was to be available upon grant approval and hiring of a Technical Assistance Specialist.

created arm of the Office for Minority and Special Student Affairs, charged with providing academic, financial and socio-cultural assistance and counseling for American Indian students. The center opened October 2, 1978, at 125 Fraser Hall, U of M. Its staff consists of two graduate students and a secretary. A national search is currently underway for a director and a final decision was expected to be made in December, 1978.

This student-run minority cultural center was set up to serve as a liaison between minority students and their communities. Plans call for a concentrated recruiting drive for university students initiated through this learning and resource center.

Currently negotiations are underway for a meeting of our Board members with the Board of Regents to discuss various topics involving Indian students on the various campuses of the University.

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#### STUDENT INTERNS

A new Student Internship program originated in the summer of 1978. It is offered to undergraduate and graduate students through the American Indian Studies Department of the University of Minnesota for non-classroom education. Purpose of the program is to provide a realistic field experience chosen by the student while at the same time benefiting the Board. It has been an extremely rewarding experience both for the interns and the Board. The interns have been integrating valuable knowledge in such areas as current Indian community issues, the legislative process and grant writing. This has all developed into a cohesive understanding of the operations of a state agency.

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**INDIAN HOUSING**

In 1976, the Legislature funded the nation's first program designed to help alleviate the serious housing problems facing Minnesota Indians. The program dedicated \$5 million for Indian home loan programs. The money eventually was directed to the tribes for use in establishing a revolving fund to provide low-interest home loans to Indian residents.

"It is difficult to imagine a more responsible use of tax money," said Executive Director Donald G. Gurnoe, Jr. "The original money keeps coming back to be put out as new loans for additional housing."

The success of the program resulted in additional funding by

the 1978 session which appropriated \$4 million for Indian housing programs. Of that total, \$1.5 million was specified for urban Indian housing programs to be developed by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) in consultation with our Urban Advisory Council. Major support for the bill was organized by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe which had tribal officials, top staff and its own legal counsel on hand at every step of the bill's journey through the Legislature to the desk of the Governor.

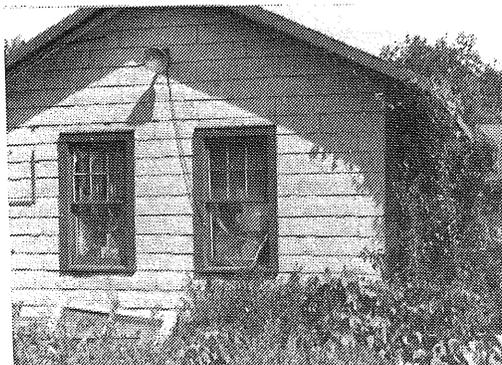
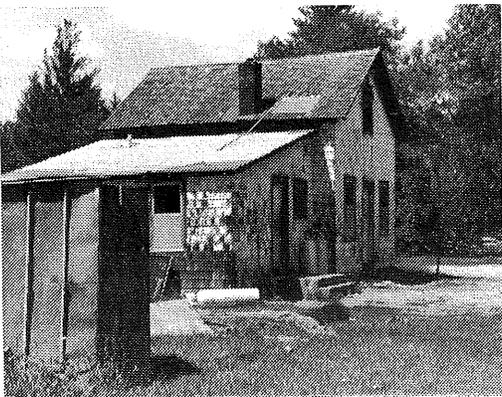
The Governor signed the bill on March 28, 1978, and the Urban Advisory Council, meeting in Duluth only 20 days later, unanimously adopted the following motion:

"The council recommends that the urban housing program created by Chapter 670, Laws of Minnesota 1978, be administered by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in consultation with the Urban Advisory Council created pursuant to MS 3.922, subd. 8."

At a meeting on May 2, 1978, the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board unanimously endorsed the action of the Urban Advisory Council. Responsibility of administering the program was officially accepted by the Tribe in June.

The final version of the rules for this grant were published in the State Register and became effective in late November. Applications to utilize these funds

Low-cost loan money provided by the revolving fund established with state-appropriated funds is helping replace dilapidated housing on reservations with new, modern homes such as the ones shown here.



were to be accepted by MHFA from prospective administrators once the rules were published. It is the philosophy of the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board that the key to success of this or any similar Indian program is Indian control and hope that decisions regarding administration of these monies will be based on this concept. These housing funds will be available to the community in 1979.

### MCT PROGRAM

#### RECOGNIZED IN D.C.

The Chippewa Tribe's success in administering the home loan program has been recognized beyond Minnesota. The program has been so successful that the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C., invited the elected tribal leaders and top administrative and housing staff to the nation's capitol to discuss the possibility

of channeling funds to the Tribe to develop a pilot program based on the experience gained through administration of the 1976 housing appropriation. Top management of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) also was summoned to that meeting. BIA's responsibilities include delivery of housing improvement programs for Indians. Discussions included use of Chapter 670 monies with proceeds of bond sales.

## THE BOARD SEEKS AN IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP

### MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Indian Affairs Intertribal Board currently has been working with the Minnesota Historical Society on the preservation of the Carver's Cave site; revision of the Indian Burial Law, Minnesota Statute 307.08; formation of an Indian Advisory Council to the Historical Society and ex-officio Indian Affairs Intertribal Board membership for the Historical Society.

The Indian Affairs Intertribal Board in conjunction with the Minnesota Sioux Tribe requested that the Historical Society take action to include the Carver's Cave site on the National Register of Historic Places. As of now, it is in the process of being nominated.

Since the recent rediscovery of the cave, we have assisted the city of St. Paul in obtaining a preliminary physical survey of the site and are awaiting the start of the survey which was to begin before the end of the year.

Carver's Cave is unique in that it is located in the heart of a major Metropolitan area and as such could be a major historical resource within reach of the majority of Minnesota citizens. The geographic location also poses inherent hazards. The Indian Affairs staff is deeply committed to the preservation of this spiritual and historic site and has expressed concern about the potential of further destruction or commercial exploitation. "We feel the rich historical value of Carver's Cave deserves the protection and preservation which can be offered by its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places," said Executive Director Donald G. Gurnoe Jr.

It also must be mentioned that the great majority of historic sites concerning Dakota people in Minnesota reflects an era of Indian-White disputes, turmoil, and warfare. Carver's Cave on the contrary possesses a history of great spiritual religious significance and represents a period

when peace and co-existence was the rule.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board and the Minnesota Historical Society have been cooperatively working on the revision of the MS 307.08 Indian Burial Law. As a result of the inherent weaknesses in the present language of this most important statute, revisions should be made to provide adequate preservation for Indian Burial sites.

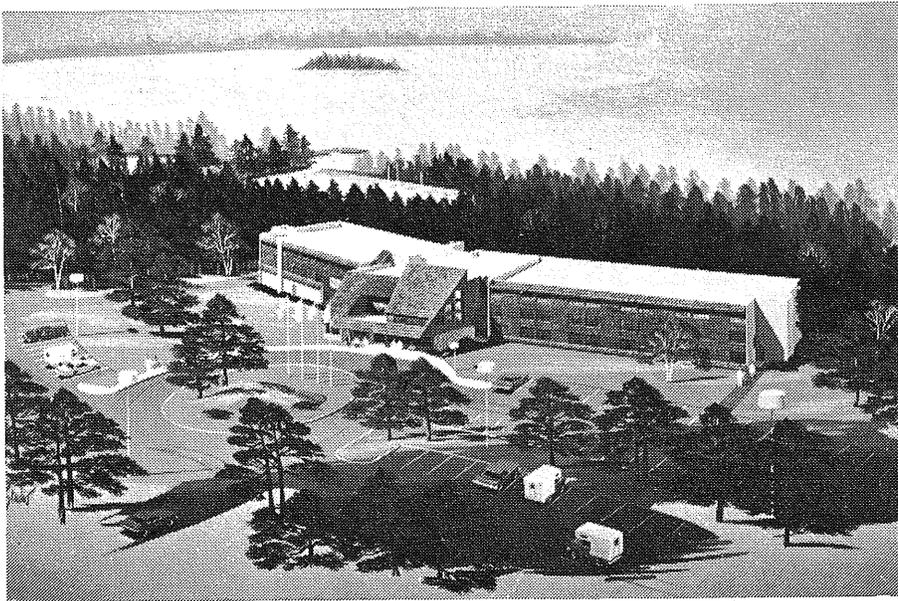
Our Board feels that an Indian Advisory Council to the Historical Society would benefit the Indian citizens of Minnesota as well as provide invaluable assistance to the Society. The Historical Society is receptive to this idea and further discussion is planned for the near future.

As a need for more rapport with our Board and the Society, we are requesting in this year's legislation, ex-officio board membership for the Minnesota Historical Society.

# INDIAN INDUSTRY: a start - still a long way to go



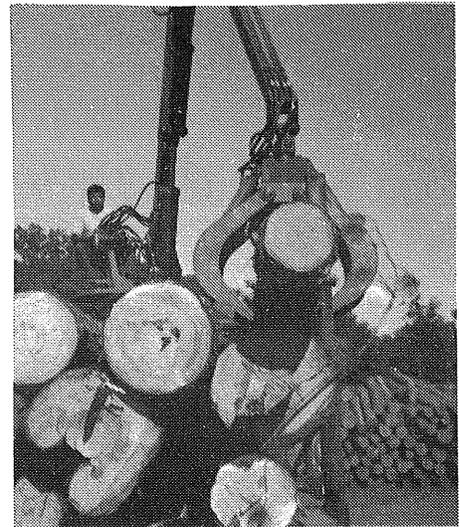
New quarters of the Red Lake Fisheries Association. Workers processing the catch inside.



The Grand Portage Radisson Inn is operated by the Grand Portage Reservation.

Cowboys cutting out a calf on the tribally-owned and operated Chippewa Ranch on the White Earth Reservation.

An Indian-owned logging operation (far right) was started with assistance from a tribal program and employs several Indian people.



## BOARD CO-SPONSORS FIRST ANNUAL MINNESOTA INDIAN JOB DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board in conjunction with the Division of Indian Work, Minneapolis; the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Cass Lake and Minneapolis; the Minneapolis Indian Comprehensive Employment Training Act (C.E.T.A.) Program; and the U.S. Department of Labor sponsored the Conference, which was held September 12, 1978 at the Minneapolis YWCA. The Department of Labor's Division of Indian and Native American Programs, which is in charge of the Indian C.E.T.A. Program, originally suggested the affair which was the second one in the nation.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss the substantial unemployment problem among the American Indians and to let business and industry know that it is good business to hire Indian people. It featured an extremely productive interchange between Indian job developers from the C.E.T.A. Program and representatives of business concerning the special employment needs and abilities of Indians. It was stressed that there are sound advantages offered by employing the people job developers have available for work, and these advantages go beyond any minority quota or affirmative action requirements. Institutional changes which may be necessary to increase the chances for Indian success in the job market were discussed.

Some of the action at the first annual Minnesota Indian Job Developers Conference.

A brief back-up on the history of the Indian C.E.T.A. Program will help explain the role of a job developer. There was a need for a different approach that was tailored especially to the needs of the American Indians. A separate Indian C.E.T.A. Program was established because this program provides funding and job creation for two kinds of employment: (1) public service which involves Indians with skills who can't find jobs and (2) work experience employment which involves Indians with neither skills nor work experience.

Main functions of the Indian C.E.T.A. Program are to help Indians find jobs, help Indians keep their jobs, help Indians train for jobs and offer Indian experts to assist companies as far as employment practices and policies are concerned. Through the use of job developers and job counselors the program has been extremely successful in accomplishing the above functions. The job developers are concerned with openings and job creation in public agencies and private business. Job counselors work with the unemployed Indians on a career development plan. They

interact to determine the training needs of the applicant for a particular job and then fully support the applicant if training is required. A follow-up person then contacts the newly-employed Indian to determine if there are any problems in the job placement.

The Indian Job Developers Conference had guest speakers from the Department of Labor, as well as state and local officials. Public and private organizations shared their accomplishments and problems concerning employment issues affecting Indians. Participation in this area was outstanding. Panels, films, slides, small group discussions and a traditional Indian luncheon also were on the agenda.

An evaluation of the conference from public and private employers who attended was extremely favorable and indicated that another conference in the future would be beneficial. In summary, the conference was extremely successful and provided a step in the right direction for an improved employment climate for Indians.



# MASH-KA-WISEN TREATMENT CENTER

## THE WORLD'S FIRST

Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center, which was dedicated August 11, 1978, is a new all-Indian venture offering primary residential treatment for chemical dependency. It is the first all-Indian treatment facility in the world. In the Ojibway (Chippewa) language, Mash-Ka-Wisen means "be strong, accept help."

The site of the Indian primary treatment center is on the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation on the shores of Big Lake, approximately 30 miles from Duluth which has air, rail and bus terminals, ten miles from Cloquet and Interstate 35, and 1 1/2 miles from Sawyer.

The Fond du Lac location is at the site of an unused campground built for the reservation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee (RBC), the reservation's tribal council or governing body, won approval from EDA for a different use for the Big Lake site. The Center is built around one of two existing structures and is able to make use of the drainfield which had been developed for the campground. "By so doing we got a facility worth nearly \$1 million for half the price," said Administrator Benton.

The Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center first stage is a 28-bed facility containing four 4-bed rooms, five 2-bed rooms and two single-bed rooms, three individual counseling or small group rooms, a large common room and a large dining room, both of which can be used for lectures. The one-floor building contains 12,500 square feet. The intention is to build two additions to the facility bringing it to a maximum capacity of 60 beds with a



detoxification unit. Efforts currently are underway to obtain funding to permit the expansions in the near future, and the Indian Affairs Board's staff is playing a key role in the search for new money.

Many Indian people who work in the field of chemical dependency treatment believe that including the philosophical and spiritual aspects of Indian culture with conventional techniques will greatly increase the effectiveness of chemical dependency treatment for Indians. These people have dreamed of an all-Indian treatment center for years. In the fall of 1974, then Gov. Wendell Anderson, called for a statewide task force on alcoholism and other drug abuse problems. That group met at the end of 1974 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis under the leadership of Minneapolis businessman and philanthropist Wheelock Whitney, and from that meeting grew the proposal for state funding of an Indian treatment center. The money for that endeavor was included in the \$1

million Indian section of the \$10 million appropriation proposed for chemical dependency treatment and prevention which became known as the Governor's Bill and was introduced early in the 1975 legislature. The bill moved slowly through the legislature and was awaiting final action when the 1975 session adjourned. Consideration of the measure was continued when the legislators reconvened in 1976, and it was finally enacted. The total was less than the Governor had proposed and the Indian section was put at \$775,000 for the biennium with \$500,000 earmarked for the treatment facility.

Originally it was planned to locate the facility in an existing structure and there was an extensive search for a suitable place. However, efforts to put the center in an existing building proved impossible because of lease restraints and the cost of remodeling to bring possible sites up to codes required for use as a residential treatment facility. It was determined that it would be less expensive to build

a new facility on Indian land and the Fond du Lac site was finally selected in July, 1977. When it became apparent that prudent business judgment would not permit a responsible decision on a site by June 30, 1977, the end of the biennium for which the money had been appropriated, it was necessary to ask the 1977 Legislature to reappropriate the money. The Legislature agreed. A contract between the Drug and Alcohol Authority and the all-Indian non-profit corporation was signed in March, 1977, and plans and specifications were developed in the following months. Competitive bids were called for and contracts with the successful low bidder, Rauenhorst Corporation of Minneapolis, were signed January, 1978. Construction began March 8, 1978. The cost of the first stage of construction was \$530,000 with the money provided by the State of Minnesota through the State Drug and Alcohol Authority which contracted with Minnesota Indian Primary Residential Treatment Center, Inc., for construction and operation of the facility.

The treatment center is operated by Minnesota Indian Primary Residential Treatment Center, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized in Minnesota and incorporated in January, 1977, with a six-member Board of Directors. Directors are President Darrell Wadena, White Earth Reservation Business Committee chairman and president of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; Roger Jourdain, chairman of the Red Lake Tribal Council; Hartley White, chairman of the Leech Lake RBC; William Houle, chairman of the Fond du Lac RBC; Gary Donald, chairman of the Nett Lake RBC; and Iola Columbus, former chairman of the Lower Sioux Tribal Council in Morton.

The Board appointed as administrator of the center Elwin J. Benton of Duluth, a nationally recognized authority in the field of treatment of Indian alcoholism and drug abuse. Mr. Benton is a former executive director of the

Minnesota Indian Affairs Board and established the Indian Alcoholism Counselor Training Project at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Ron Hagland, an Oneida who is a

native of St. Paul, is program director at Mash-Ka-Wisen. He previously was on the staff of the world-famed Hazelden Treatment Center where he was assistant training director and a special counselor to Indian patients.



Harold Hughes, former U.S. Senator and governor of Iowa, shown at the rostrum, was main speaker at the grand opening of Mash-Ka-Wisen August 11, 1978. The totem pole in the background was presented by the host Fond du Lac Reservation.



The dining area at the treatment center provides residents with carefully planned, nutritious meals three times a day.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

## THE ATIKOKAN POWER PLANT

## A Quick Waiting

## List for

## Mash-Ka-Wisen

Mash-Ka-Wisen received its first residents on September 14, 1978 and by the end of November, it was operating at 90 per cent capacity. In fact, Administrator Elwin J. Benton reported that there was a waiting list within a couple weeks after the Center's initial patients were admitted.

"But because of the travel time to get to the Center and changes of heart, we have not been at 100 per cent occupancy. It's a matter of human nature that people in need of treatment sometimes decide to back out at the last minute," he said.

Patients have come from all the reservations as well as from the Twin Cities area and Duluth. The Center sends a van on a regular schedule throughout the state to pick up Indians for admission.

Benton explained that the prime contractor was finished before the August 11 grand opening which received area-wide media coverage and featured an address by Harold Hughes, former U.S. Senator and Governor of Iowa.

"We weren't able to have admission for a month after the grand opening because of delay in the delivery of kitchen equipment," he said.

In 1978 for the first time, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Intertribal Board became involved in an international matter: the effect that a proposed power plant at Atikokan, Ontario will have on the quality of the environment on northern Minnesota reservations.

A crown corporation of Ontario has commenced work leading to the construction of a coal-fired electricity generating plant on the shores of Lake Marmion near Atikokan. The site is located 35 miles from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and 45 miles from Voyageurs National Park. The nearest reservations are Red Lake and Bois Forte.

Grand Treaty Council III, a coalition of Canadian Indian tribes, raised the issue of the effect the plant might have on Indian land in Canada and in the spring of 1978 contacted the staff to alert Minnesota Indian interests to the implications the project might hold for northern Minnesota reservations. At a regular meeting in July, the Board ordered the staff to get involved, and we have been in contact with congressional offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as well as Canadian tribal and environmental organizations.

The concern over construction of the Atikokan plant was sparked by an action of the Ontario cabinet granting the plant an exemption from the Ontario Environmental Protection Act. The U.S. EPA recently indicated in a study that flue gas scrubbers to remove sulfur from power plant emissions are the best control technology currently available.

Scrubbers are required throughout the U.S., on new, large fossil-fuel generating plants.

However, the exemption for Atikokan granted by the government of Ontario means the plant will be built without the scrubbers or other sulfur-control equipment. The Minnesota PCA recently concluded that the Atikokan facility as presently planned may cause violations in the area of allowable incremental air quality deterioration.

**UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF  
BIA SCHOLARSHIP MONEY  
BY WELFARE UNITS HURTS  
INDIAN PEOPLE**

In determining Aid to Families with Dependent Children Grants, educational monies from the Office of Education are totally disregarded, but educational monies from the Bureau of Indian Affairs are scrutinized as a source of possible income and discrepancies then result between funding for the Indian and non-Indian student.

The special scrutiny of BIA Grants and Loans as compared to the "no questions asked" exemptions for OE funds often result in the Indian student obtaining fewer benefits than an identically situated non-Indian student.

Enactment of state and federal legislation is needed to correct the unequal treatment given by welfare departments to BIA educational funds as opposed to those made or insured through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Indian Bicultural Programs** - It is the purpose of this 1976 act to provide for the establishment of American Indian language and culture education programs. Our Board in conjunction with the Department of Education is requesting an appropriation of \$600,000 to continue the successful pilot programing funded last session.
2. **State Indian Scholarship Program** - This most important act has been providing advanced or specialized education for American Indians. Our Board will assist the Department of Education in seeking continued appropriations for the sum of \$1,000,000 for the coming biennium.
3. **Special Sioux Home Improvement Grant** - We recommend appropriation from the general fund to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for upgrading existing housing for enrolled members within the Sioux communities of Prairie Island, Shakopee, Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux. We request the sum of \$155,886 for this purpose.
4. **Indian Burials and Minnesota Statute 307.08** - As currently written this statute provides very little protection for the preservation of Indian burial sites either on public or private lands. We would like to revise it to provide adequate preservation for Indian burial sites.
5. **Sioux Legal Assistance** - The Sioux communities need funding for the purpose of providing criminal and juvenile defense to individuals within their enrolled membership. This program would put the Sioux on an equal level with other programs currently in operation on other reservations and metropolitan areas throughout the state. We request that the sum of \$45,000 be appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Administration for this purpose.
6. **Indian Name Change** - The Indian Affairs Intertribal Board has unanimously voted and officially requested Minnesota news media and agencies of government to refer to members of federally recognized tribes as "American Indians." We also suggest that the Minnesota Statutes be revised to drop the term "Native American" in favor of "American Indian."
7. **Business Grants and Loans** - The Board supports an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for Indian business grants and loans.
8. **Increased Funding for Indian Home Loans** - We request that additional monies be appropriated for the purpose of providing immediate Indian housing needs and to expand the revolving loan feature of the present program.
9. **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.
10. **Land Claims Pay Exemption** - The Board recommends that the Legislature enact a law exempting Indian land claims payments from income consideration in the general assistance and Minnesota supplemental aid programs in addition to the 1967 exemption from programs under the Social Security Act.
11. **Equal Treatment** - We request enactment of state and federal legislation to correct the unequal treatment given by welfare departments to BIA educational funds as opposed to those made or insured through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.
12. **Health Board** - We recommend that community Health Service special grant monies set aside for the Indian Health Board Clinic reflect enough of an increase to offset inflation for the coming biennium.

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