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MINNESOTA  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT

November 15, 1987

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— Pursuant to Mn Stat 3.922  
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State of Minnesota  
**INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
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Bemidji, Minnesota 56601  
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November 15, 1987

To the Honorable Rudolph Perpich, Governor and the  
Legislature of the State of Minnesota

As required by Minnesota Statute 3.922, Subdivision 9, it is my pleasure to  
submit the 1987 Annual Report for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

The Agency and staff feel that we have met many of our goals to enhance tribal-  
state relations in political, economic, educational, and cultural interaction  
addressing the needs of Indian people.

This report is due on November 15 of each year and is made available to the  
Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the  
Legislative Reference Library according to state law. Upon request, copies  
are available to state agencies, tribal governments, institutions of higher  
learning and other interested parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roger Head".

Roger Head  
Executive Director

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### DEDICATION

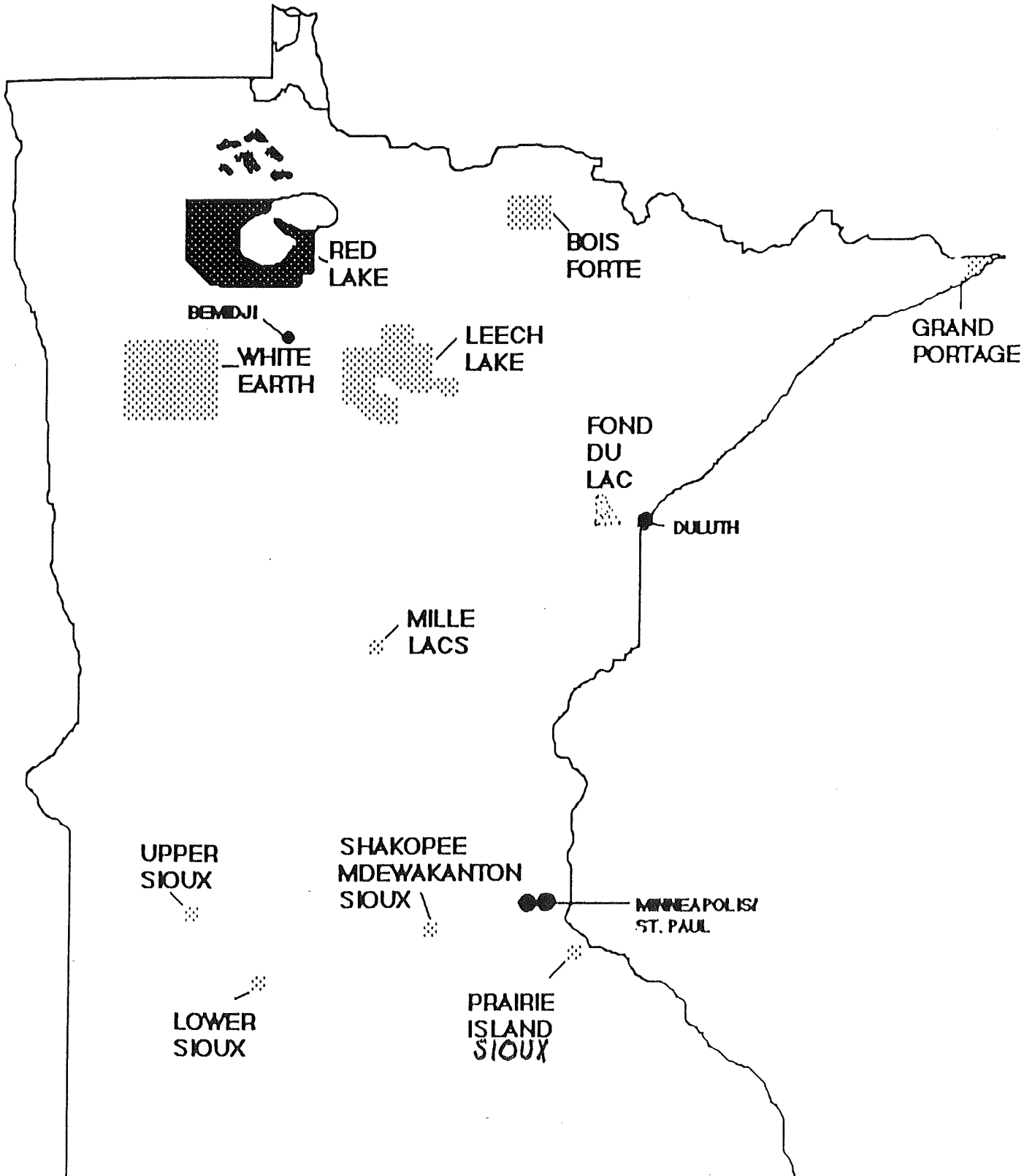
The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and staff wish to dedicate this edition of our Annual Report to the memory of Mr. George V. Goodwin, a long time friend of the Council and colleague in the field of service to Indian people.

Since George's passing to the next world, much has been said about his personal and professional attributes, all of it true. We should keep the words of this dedication, then, short and to the point - much like George would have wanted.

We feel we would be seriously remiss however, if we did not mention his devotion to the advancement of the Indian presence and status on the State of Minnesota. George led us many times through the maze of legislative protocol; he never seemed to tire nor let himself be overwhelmed by the sheer complexity of getting state "Indian law" passed. Truly, George was a force to be reckoned with; he seemed to possess that keen sense for making the right moves at the right time. More importantly, George was a friend to us all.

We feel fortunate to have been a part of George's life; indeed, he is one of a kind.

# MINNESOTA INDIAN RESERVATIONS



## INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, created by the 1963 Legislature, is the official liaison between state and tribal governments. The Council's membership is open to all eleven Tribal Chairmen and two At-large members. In addition, it is advised by a committee representing urban Indian populations and concerns.

Our mission is clearly spelled out in statute. Among other duties, the Council represents to the Legislature issues and concerns of the statewide American Indian population. The Council recommends legislation which is favorable to Indian tribes and organizations, and it advises the Legislature of the affect certain legislation may have upon tribes.

The Council is authorized to employ an Executive Director and additional staff. Currently, the Council employs nine staff, and maintains offices in the Cities of Bemidji and St. Paul.

Because Bemidji is centrally located between several northern reservations, it was designated as the headquarters of the Council. The Bemidji office also administers the Agency's service programs - The Indian Business Loan Program, Joint Training Partnership Act, Equal Opportunity Specialist, and Indian Burial Program.

The St. Paul office is responsible for service to the Twin Cities metro Indian communities and southern Minnesota Sioux Tribes. Additionally, it provides much of the Council's legislative planning and research.

The Council's staff assists state agencies with the design and implementation of special programs targeted to American Indians. Historically, these are administered by the Depts. of Human Service, Education, Corrections, and MN Housing Finance Agency. Invariably our input discusses the nature of tribal government and needs of reservation residents.

The Indian Affairs Council experiences a good deal of success with its annual

legislative agenda. Advocating for continued funding of special programs for Indians seems to occupy more time; however, we managed to influence the thinking of the Legislature so that tribal and urban Indian housing monies was increased, and several education projects were funded. Our attempt at including reservations in the Reinvest in Minnesota Law and Rural Development Act was also successful.

The Indian Affairs Council has become more futuristic in its thinking. Given high unemployment rates on reservations and little opportunity, the Council is seeking out ways in which job creation may occur. By working to include reservations in the economic development programs the state offers, the Council lays the groundwork for future development. Finally, several reservations are making assessments of their tax incentives for business development and relocation to reservations. At this time, too little is known about the issue to intelligently discuss here.

Furthermore, the Indian Affairs Council in its review of socio-demographics of Indians as a group, has concluded that much work remains in the area of up-grading the social and economic status of Indians. It's found that Indians lag far behind in family income and affirmative action. Educationally, Indians still have the highest drop-out rate of any group. These kinds of statements lead our Council to strive even harder toward economic self-sufficiency and educational opportunity for all our constituency.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

Hartley White, Leech Lake  
 Dean Blue, Upper Sioux  
 Donald Gurnoe Jr., At-Large

Chairman  
 Vice-Chairman  
 Treasurer

William Houle, Fond du Lac  
 Daniel Morrison Sr., Bois Forte  
 Darrell "Chip" Wadena, White Earth  
 James Hendrickson, Grand Portage  
 David Larsen Jr., Lower Sioux  
 John Dow, Prairie Island  
 Susan Totenhagen, Shakopee-Mdewankanton  
 Mary Jo Brooks, At-Large

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**TERM EXPIRES**

Mary Ann Walt, Duluth  
 Constance Ross-Brandenburg, St. Paul  
 Roy Roberts, Minneapolis

Dec. 1988  
 Jan. 1991  
 Feb. 1991

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

**DESIGNEE**

Senator Florian Chmielewski, Sturgeon Lake  
 Senator Gary DeCramer, Ghent  
 Senator Cal Larson, Fergus Falls

Rudolph Perpich, Governor .....	David Cook
Orville B. Pung, Comm., Dept. of Corrections .....	Lurline Baker-Kent
Ruth E. Randall, Comm., Dept. of Education .....	David Beaulieu
David J. Speer, Comm., Dept. of Energy and Economic Development .....	Katherine Johnson
Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, Comm., Dept. of Health .....	Judith Ball
Sandra S. Gardebring, Comm., Dept. of Human Services .....	
James J. Solem, Exec. Dir., Housing Finance Agency .....	Donna Fairbanks
Joseph N. Alexander, Comm., Dept. of Natural Resources ....	Joseph Day
Gary A. Lamma, Comm., Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation .....	Brian Hiti
Stephen W. Cooper, Comm., Dept. of Human Rights .....	Gary Gorman



## URBAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

1976 amendments to the enabling statute of the Indian Affairs Council created an Advisory Council whose members are representative of urban Indian communities.

The Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth are specifically mentioned, and the Council's mission is to advise the Indian Affairs Council on the unique problems and concerns of urban Indians. Five members are appointed by the IAC for four year terms.

Over the years, the Urban Advisory Council became extremely active in community affairs; at times it exercised leadership, and it truly did become a forum for debate on urban policy and programming.

The Council is now rethinking its mission and how it might best fulfill its role as an advisory committee. Two vacancies have occurred during the year, and notices of these have been mailed to Indian organizations. Early responses indicate several candidates will apply for membership.

We look forward to another productive year for the Advisory Council.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 1987

<u>Original Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Per Laws 1985, First Special Session, Chapter 13, Section 38	258,900.00
Transfer In, Salary Supplement	24,533.00
	283,433.00
 <u>Expenditures</u>	
Salaries	239,683.29
Supplies and Expense	36,792.57
Council Members Expense	5,744.20
Indian Burial Grounds	338.88
	282,558.94
Total Expenditures	282,558.94
Unallotted/Unliquidated	874.06

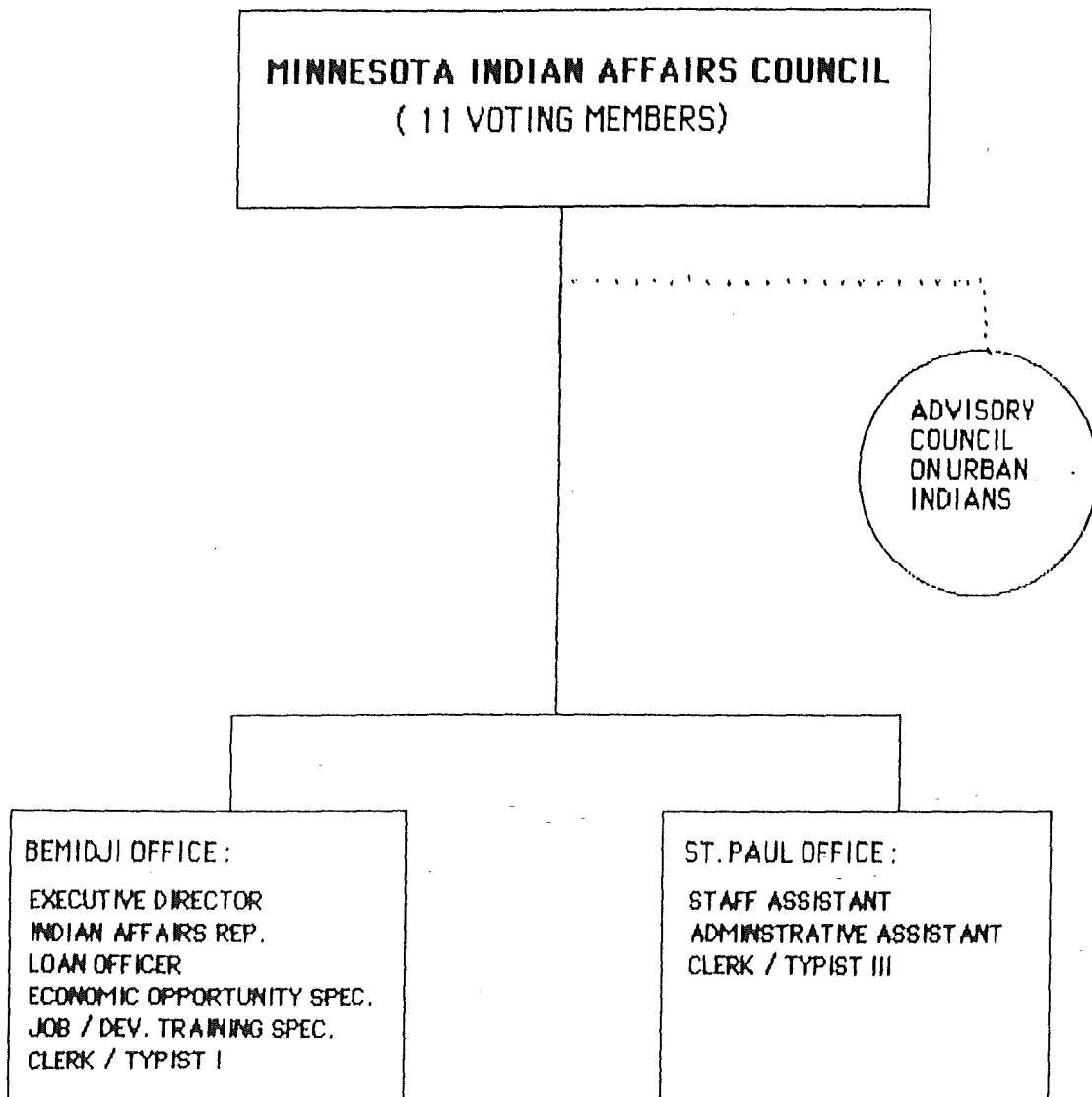
Contributions to 10% matching requirement to Appropriation per Legislative Rider, Section 38, Chapter 13, Special Session Laws 1985

Required Match	25,890.00
Excess carry forward from Fiscal Year 1986	1,236.00
	24,654.00
To Be Matched	
Cash Matching Funds received:	
Deposit NO. G01, 2/9/87, Laura Jane Musser, Contributor, Check #163, 2/9/76	1,500.00
Federal CSBG '86 Discretionary Funds, Department of Jobs and Training, Contributor	39,413.00
	40,913.00

In-kind Match Contributions received:

Free use of Panasonic Copier and Word Processing Systems, Copy Duplicating Products, Contributor	7,500.00
Free use and maintenance of a Xerox 645S Memorywriter, Xerox corporation, Contributor	3,900.00
	11,400.00
Total In-Kind Contributions	11,400.00

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## INDIAN BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

The Indian Business Loan Program was enacted by the Legislature in 1973. The program provides Minnesota based Indians with the opportunity to establish or expand a business enterprise in Minnesota and provides the resources for management and/or technical assistance to prospective clients.

Funds for this program come from a portion of the severed mineral rights taxes that are collected by counties each year; the average amount made available for distribution among the eleven (11) reservations in the state is approximately \$89,000.00 per year. Even though this is a relatively small amount of money to be used for business loans, the agency feels that its uses tend to be cost effective and wide ranging in terms of the types and number of businesses it has been able to assist.

Funds are administered by the agency; when an eligible Indian applies for a loan, the application is forwarded to the agency for review of appropriate documentation. If all information is present, the application is then sent to the appropriate Tribal Council which makes a prudent judgement on whether to approve or reject the application; if approved, the application is sent to the Indian Affairs Council for completion of the loan process. Most reservations will fund up to 25% of the total project cost and applicants must have at least 5-20% equity to inject into their project. Other funding sources must then be available. Regular financing information is required, such as balance sheets, income and expense projections, cash flow statements, a good business plan which shows a reasonable chance of success.

A portion of the funds allocated to each reservation under this program are reserved for businesses located off the reservation. Each individual tribal government decides how much of their available funds will be set-aside for this purpose.

During FY 87, seven (7) loan applications were received totalling \$105,900; of this number, one application was cancelled due to no response for additional information

or other financing had been denied. Six (6) applications are pending approval of other financing and one (1) application has been tabled until further negotiations are completed. Six loans have been disbursed totalling \$72,368. Three loans have been paid in full. Delinquency rate continues to be minimal; as reported in last year's activities, there were three loans which were in arrears more than six months, those loans are now in foreclosure status. As of this year's report, there are two loans more than six months in arrears and arrangements have been made with the client to resolve the situation.

The Legislative Auditor's office recently completed a two year audit of our Agency which included the IBL program. He expressed concern regarding the high fund balance that remains unused by those Reservations who do not have their programs in operation; it was suggested that until such time as those Reservations submit accepted loan plans, the unused funds be utilized by those Reservations who have successful programs in operation, but find that their available funds have been depleted. This arrangement would make the unused monies accessible to need, thus conforming to the legislative intent of the program and insuring continued benefit to Indian people statewide.

Along with regular loan officer duties, other activities include maintaining separate records of all IBL monies forwarded by counties and clients, furnishing year end reports to each reservation, executing semi-annual site visits to clients, providing six month report to individual reservations regarding loan activities and payments received, and meeting with reservation staff as needed. IBL staff also devote time and expertise to other organizations, boards and committees whose functions promote business development and provide growth potential to small businesses.

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JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

The Indian Affairs Council serves as the Minnesota contact for the J.T.P.A. program. The contract with the Federal Dept. of Labor allows a staff person to provide training and technical assistance to the nine J.T.P.A. grantees throughout the state.

Six grantees are located on Indian Reservations and the remaining three serve urban areas. Their entire training program is facilitated by our staff person. In addition, he is actively involved with other community affairs projects, such as the Area 3 Private Industry Council which develops guidelines and goals for employment development in the northern part of the state.

## MINNESOTA CEMETERIES ACT

The Indian Affairs Council shares responsibility with the State Archaeologist for carrying out the provisions of State Statute 307.08. We refer to this subdivision as the Indian Burial Law because it specifically outlines authorization for maintaining, marking, and preserving ancestral burial mounds.

Over the years, our staff person has completed work on 60 sites throughout the state. In most cases, this involved preservation of identified sites. However, during the past year, work was started on 24 sites which ultimately will be reinterred at our Red Wing site. Reburial is necessary in these cases because city redevelopment threatens to destroy all skeletal remains within the mounds. State law provides for reinterment when development occurs, and the state appropriation we received during the 1987 legislative session provides the resources.

The Council and Archaeologist have established a goal of 50 reburials to take place during the season. This goal reflects a stepped up effort in the work of the program primarily because the Legislature allocated \$25,000 each year of the biennium. Prior to this, the program operated under limited resources and consequently, less work on specific projects was hindered.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

The Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training; through an interagency agreement with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, provides funding for the position of Economic Opportunity Program Specialist II. This position provides information, technical assistance and administrative support to eleven reservation governments in Minnesota, administering federal and state Economic Opportunity programs.

Programs administered through this project include the federal Community Services Block Grant, Basic Community Services Block Grant Special Allotment, The Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant, Legislative Action Council, Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program, Weatherization Program, and the Energy Assistance Program. Allocations for these programs were awarded on a formula based on the most recent reservation census count available to the state of Minnesota. In some cases, a base funding to provide essential administrative capability was added to the allocation. In most instances, grant awards based solely on population counts do not begin to meet the needs of each reservation due to the high rates of unemployment, inadequate housing and other factors. For this reason, coordination of grant planning is essential, as is the mobilization of supplemental resources.

On reservation site visits have proven to be an essential method of assessing local efforts to increase productivity and self-sufficiency in providing more and better service to people in need. Additionally, communications between the Department of Jobs and Training and Tribal Government is enhanced.

During the past year the Indian Affairs Council's Economic Opportunity Specialist has traveled to all reservation grantees to provide technical assistance for existing projects and review the status of current contracts. These contracts include all Community Service Block Grants. Each reservation government has presented unique well planned pre-grant applications on various projects and have determined what essential program activity must be accomplished to meet the re-



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quired need of their low income residents.

The Council believes that the work carried out by this program component has been of great benefit to Indians in enhancing their quality of life in Minnesota.

## MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT

The Legislature improved the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act by adding financial resources.

At the beginning of the 1987 session, the Indian Affairs Council and several Social Service providers recommended the outdated Indian Relief Act of 1969 be repealed, and its monies redistributed among the eleven Reservations and three metro areas. We are pleased to report the Legislature did incorporate our suggestions into the amendments it passed. The final result translates to; those community-based family counseling agencies which carry out pre-adoption, or placement services now have access to \$1.5 million dollars over the 1988-89 biennium.

It's intended the monies will support the administration of programs that seek to assist American Indian families who are experiencing break-up due to out of home placement of the children. In carrying out the intent of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, these programs offer family counseling which are geared toward maintaining and promoting family unity as well as paralegal assistance for the families who are within the jurisdiction of a court system.

Clearly, the monies will enable many Indian families to remain intact while the parents and children work to improve their social and financial circumstances.

The policy implications of this legislation is equally important. We believe the redistribution of funds which were attached to the Indian Relief Act is a positive statement from the Legislature about the management capability of Indian tribes and urban community populations. Up to this time, the Indian Relief monies were well beyond the control of Indian organizations. Instead, the funds were administered by county governments, oftentimes without any input from Indians. Consequently the intent of the Relief Act was rarely met.

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The repeal of this Relief Act and subsequent change in administration of its funds, therefore, is interpreted to state tribal and urban community organizations that they indeed possess adequate administrative capabilities.

Although this is not the first experience Minnesota Indian organizations have had with program administration, the Indian Affairs Council recognizes a greater willingness on the part of the Legislature for allowing tribes to exercise self-determination with respect to state funds.

Finally, the Council wishes to express its appreciation to all those who helped or supported the passage of this legislation.

## EDUCATION

The education of Indian children and young adults has long been a priority of the Indian Affairs council. The Legislature shares this commitment as well.

During the 1987 session approximately \$6.5 million dollars was appropriated to Indian education programs. The monies will finance several statewide programs in the K-12 grades and post-secondary institutions. The Legislature authorized several special one-time appropriations as well.

The largest and oldest education program funded by the Legislature is the State Indian Scholarship Program. It's been in existence since 1955, and has enabled hundreds of Indian college students to receive their undergraduate degree. The Legislature appropriated \$1,581,800 each year of the biennium for this particular program, some members expressed their desire for an expansion of the program as well.

The remaining three programs funded are continuations of past legislative authorizations. They receive less funding than the Scholarship Program; however, each contributes in its own way to the education of Indian children.

The Post-Secondary Preparation Program is made available in some school districts; its intent is simple - prepare high school students for college. On a statewide basis, the program is funded at \$781,400 each year.

The Indian Language and Culture Program is a unique initiative that provides younger students the opportunity for learning traditional customs and language of their ancestors. The Legislature authorized \$588,400 for each year of the biennium.

Although Johnson-O'Malley programs are primarily a federal initiative, the State of Minnesota opted to support the six or seven programs whose federal money came short or was lost entirely. The program enables Social worker Aides, who are them-

selves American Indian, to be available in schools where a high concentration of Indian students are enrolled. The State cost amounts to \$174,755 each year. Early on in the 1987 legislative session, representatives of three Reservation governments requested the assistance of the Indian Affairs Council. The Reservations, apparently, were facing considerable difficulty in financing the purchase of a school bus, meeting the costs of unemployment insurance premiums, and in the case of a school district in Cook County, the school was faced with closure in the absence of additional administrative funds.

Successful lobbying and presentations to the Senate Education Committee proved to be the most effective in winning the support of Legislators. So much so that appropriations were made to the Pine Point School, Nett Lake, and Cook County Elementary School which is located on the Grand Portage Reservation.

Pine Point School was allocated \$38,000 expressly for the purchase of a bus, and \$32,000 for the payment of unemployment compensation. Nett Lake received \$20,000 for unemployment compensation, and an additional \$40,000 to meet the cost of liability insurance. The Cook County education grant totaled \$50,000 each year. Presumably these funds improved the school's financial position to a level which allows the school to remain open.

It should be noted several individuals provided invaluable assistance to the Council, with which the special grants may not have been authorized. Therefore, we express a note of gratitude for the many hours these people spent at the Capitol. Many of our readers are familiar with the Council's proposal to the Legislature for treating tribally controlled schools as if they were a separate school district, which of course would make them eligible for most grant programs offered to other school districts. Our goal in seeking the status of a school district actually flows from the eligibility for State foundation aids - which is believed to be a

more stable source of revenue. However, following much debate with members of the Legislature, the proposal failed to gain passage. Rather, the Senate Education Committee agreed to further study the issue and present its findings to the 1988 legislative session. Hopefully, the Council will be in a better position to argue for the rationale behind the proposal. We do have strong feelings about sharing in Foundation aids, especially in view of the numbers of students who transfer from a district school to a tribal school. Finally, it's been suggested this proposal, also known as the Tribal School Equalization Aids Bill, may be our top priority during the 1988 session.

In summary and in spite of the failure of the Equalization Aids Bill, the Council believes it achieved outstanding results with regard to existing education issues. The Legislature clearly was sensitive to all other Indian education programs as reflected by the amount of funds appropriated to the initiatives.

## HOUSING

Tribal and Urban Indian housing programs were funded at significant levels. Tribal housing programs were allocated \$1.8 million dollars for each year of the biennium. These funds subsequently are divided among the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Red Lake Tribal Council, and the Sioux Indian Communities.

The administrative goals of the programs are to provide low-interest loans to eligible Indian families who might not otherwise have access to ownership opportunity. We believe the program is effective and fulfills a fundamental desire for adequate housing.

Urban Indian housing did not fare nearly as well as the Tribal program. \$235,000 was appropriated for each year. The amounts available to the targeted areas becomes inadequate when the monies are divided among the three metro areas. However, the program administrators manage to leverage state funds with other financing. So then, the program makes use of every dollar and works hard at expanding ownership opportunity, given limited resources.

It's important to note these programs were faced with serious cuts during the state budget setting period. It seems the agency that administers the statewide program did not share the same commitment Legislators echo. With an uphill battle confronting the members of the Indian Affairs Council, they proceeded to demonstrate the need for housing monies as well as illustrate the effectiveness of the program. Nearly all the Legislators we talked with about Indian housing problems and programs, became convinced the programs should be spared. Finally, the conclusion of the Session brought the fulfillment of our request for additional monies.

This appropriation, then, provides for the continuation of a highly successful initiative.

## MINNESOTA EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

The State M.E.E.D. program now has a few years history and experience with job creation in the public and private sector. It has enjoyed the confidence of the Legislature and advocates of fair and expanded employment opportunities for the hard-to-employ clientele.

For the first time in the history of the program, a special set-aside appropriation was made expressly for Indian Reservations. Approximately \$700,000 a year is targeted to Reservations with high unemployment rates - of course nearly every Reservation shows a rate of 30% and higher. A Reservation in Northwestern Minnesota claims an unemployment rate of 62%; these levels of unemployment are incomprehensible especially when compared with the national unemployment rate of 10% which was considered staggering during the years of the Great Depression.

Unemployment on Indian Reservations has historically been a major problem. Many factors contribute to this lack of job opportunities. In some areas of the state, employers seem unwilling to hire Indians before Whites - thus contributing to lack of understanding and acceptance between racial groups. In some instances, potential Indian employees lack the necessary skill level needed for certain jobs, or employers do not offer appropriate training programs which ultimately place trainees into job slots. Needless to say, there is room for improvement on both sides.

In any event, the Legislature made an attempt at creating employment on Reservations. By mandating a set-aside appropriation, Reservations may establish M.E.E.D. programs. Of course \$700,000 spread over eleven Reservations is not a solution, and we recognize funding shortfalls likely will occur on some Reservations. However, anyone concerned with employment programs and relations between state and tribal governments must know this appropriation represents the first of its kind. Characteristically, tribes must now prepare plans for additional programs and fund-



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ing. A concrete proposal should be developed and presented to the Legislature during future sessions.

Such a proposal may very well be developed by the Indian Affairs Council. Hopefully, this item will be added to our 1988 legislative agenda.

## INDIAN YOUTH GROUP HOME

At the urging of community-based advocates of Indian youth and the Indian Affairs Council, the Legislature authorized a one time appropriation of \$50,000 which is intended to aid in the development of a group home which serves Indian adolescents who are re-entering society following a stay at a state correctional facility.

The home is planned to be located in Hennepin County because the area shows a high incidence of placement to corrections. It's been suggested that many placements need not occur, especially if a home were available. Of course the group home must offer intensified counseling both on an individual and family basis.

Development of a group home is predicated on the notion that Indian youth will improve socially and scholastically under a culturally relevant program.

Finally, the legislation requires the \$50,000 be matched by Hennepin County. At this writing, there is no indication of the County's willingness for sharing the responsibility of group home development.

## HUMAN SERVICES/MENTAL HEALTH

Until the 1987 Legislature increased funding for American Indian mental health services, the few programs operating throughout the state could not possibly serve all clients who are in need of psychosocial counseling.

Since the Legislature nearly doubled the previous allocations, Reservation mental health services have vastly improved as well as expanding their caseloads. Thanks to the allocation of \$350,000 each year, the providers may now continue to improve programs and service delivery.

Much of the responsibility for the renewed interest in meeting the needs of the mentally ill or persons suffering depression which manifests into behavior changes, rests with the Governor and his special Task Force on Mental Health issues. In presenting the task Force recommendations for improving the Minnesota system, it was pointed out the Indian population ought to be included in any statewide effort.

## SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE

The Legislature passed a licensure law which requires mandatory registration and licensing of Social Workers and Family Therapists. No doubt such regulation is needed - given the number of complaints from patients undergoing clinical therapy. According to experts in the psychosocial field, many vulnerable women and men are led into sexual relationships by the Primary Therapists. This is but one justification for mandatory licensing of Social Workers; of course other inappropriate practices are reported.

The Indian Affairs Council, however, sought exemption from licensing. We believe the stringent professional criteria Social Workers must meet is not applicable to Social Workers who are American Indian and practicing in a community agency or Tribal organization where the majority of clients are Indian. More often than not, American Indian Social Workers and Counselors gain experience by front line work with the most difficult clientele, and many Indian Counselors choose to utilize tradition and custom of tribes in the Therapist/Patient relationship. Research shows Indian patients progress more rapidly when under the care of Social Workers who are themselves American Indian. Therefore, the Council recommended that Indian Social Workers who work in Indian agencies ought to be exempted. Our request was supported by the leading Association of Social Workers as well as several Legislators.

Final language of the licensure law indeed exempted tribes and urban Indian agencies from mandatory licensing. Rather, the Legislature provided for voluntary registration and licensure. These conditions are much more acceptable and appropriate to Indian counseling centers.

The Indian Affairs Council appreciates the sensitivity expressed by the Legislature, and we extend a warm thank you to those who aided in the passage of the amendment to the law.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

Last session Governor Perpich and the Legislature passed a major economic development program. Its title is the Rural Development Act.

Its authors claim implementation of the program will foster job creation, business development, and the general improvement of lagging economies around the state.

The program, in some aspects, proposes to make grant monies available, and utilize the state's bonding authority for eligible areas or communities in Minnesota.

The magnitude and broad range of economic development tools the Act plans to initiate, clearly shows the Governor and Legislature is serious about fulfilling the goals of the program. A substantial financial commitment was made to the program, thus ensuring adequate funding of targeted businesses. Such an undertaking surely will result in major job creation activities.

The Indian Affairs Council is pleased to report the Act includes Indian Reservations. In fact, the Rural Development Act treats Reservations much like local units of government, in that Reservation governments may apply directly to some grant and loan programs offered by the Act. Without the specific language making Reservations eligible, the RBC's would have first had to receive the approval of the surrounding Counties and Cities.

In theory, the Act requires local governments and Indian Reservations, which desire development of business or manufacturing plants within their jurisdiction, to submit feasibility and development plans to the governing board of the Rural Development Program. Once approved, the proposed project may be financed by loan or matching type grant monies. Of course, projects must meet certain criteria, which are established on the basis of production and potential for job creation.

The Indian Affairs Council shares the same commitment to economic development as the Governor and Legislature. Advocating for inclusion in the Act clearly shows

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the Council has begun long-range planning for developing the economies of Reservations. Actually, this initiative is the second major step toward development. During the 1986 legislative session, the Council successfully gained authority for Reservations in an Industrial Development Bonding Program. As a result, Reservation governments may participate in the state bond sales which finance business development.

It's the goal of the Council to build a framework for development, and to establish the necessary resources within state government. Further, it's the Council's desire to begin comprehensive planning for eventual self-sustaining Reservations which participate in the free market of national commerce.

Positive legislation like the Rural Development Act and Bonding Program certainly builds a foundation for Reservation initiatives.

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

The 1987 Legislature added responsibilities to the mission of the Indian Affairs Council. State Statute now reads, we must develop an educational program for our constituency, such programming to include the elements of the State Human Rights Act.

While discussing the future of the Dept. of Human Rights, the Legislature felt the Dept. was weak in the area of providing service to American Indians. Indeed statistically, analysis shows a disparity exists between Indian and non-Indian in terms of probable cause findings.

Over the years, our offices receive dozens of calls relating to human rights enforcement. Lacking any authority to effectively deal with these situations, our options are a simple referral to the Department. In many instances, Indian callers became disenchanted with the system and therefore, do not follow through with the complaint process.

Hopefully, the development of a comprehensive educational program will serve to alleviate much of the problem the Dept. of Human Rights confronts.

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CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

The Indian Affairs Council assisted in the process of a state appropriation to the Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center in Cloquet, Minnesota.

The Center requested \$400,000 be made available on a matching basis with the Federal government. The Legislature approved the allocation on condition the Center is designated a regional treatment center for Indians and subsequent federal appropriations are made.

Planning for a regional center flows from the Federal Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 1986. The Act sets aside a percentage of funds to be used by Indian tribes, and it establishes a framework for the development of several regional treatment centers. Since Mash-Ka-Wisen is a functional and successful program, its administration is seeking federal designation and funds.



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REINVEST IN MINNESOTA

At the urging of the Indian Affairs Council, Indian Reservations were included in the 1987 amendments to the RIM law. It was discovered that much of Reservation land would improve through participation in the program.

Subsequent negotiations led to the insertion of language allowing Reservations into eligible land area criteria.