

MINNESOTA
INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT

November 15, 1988

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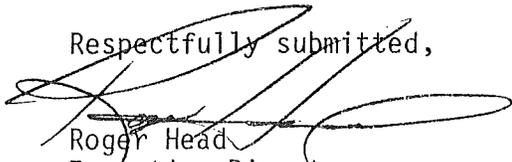
November 15, 1988

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 1988 Annual Report for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

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,

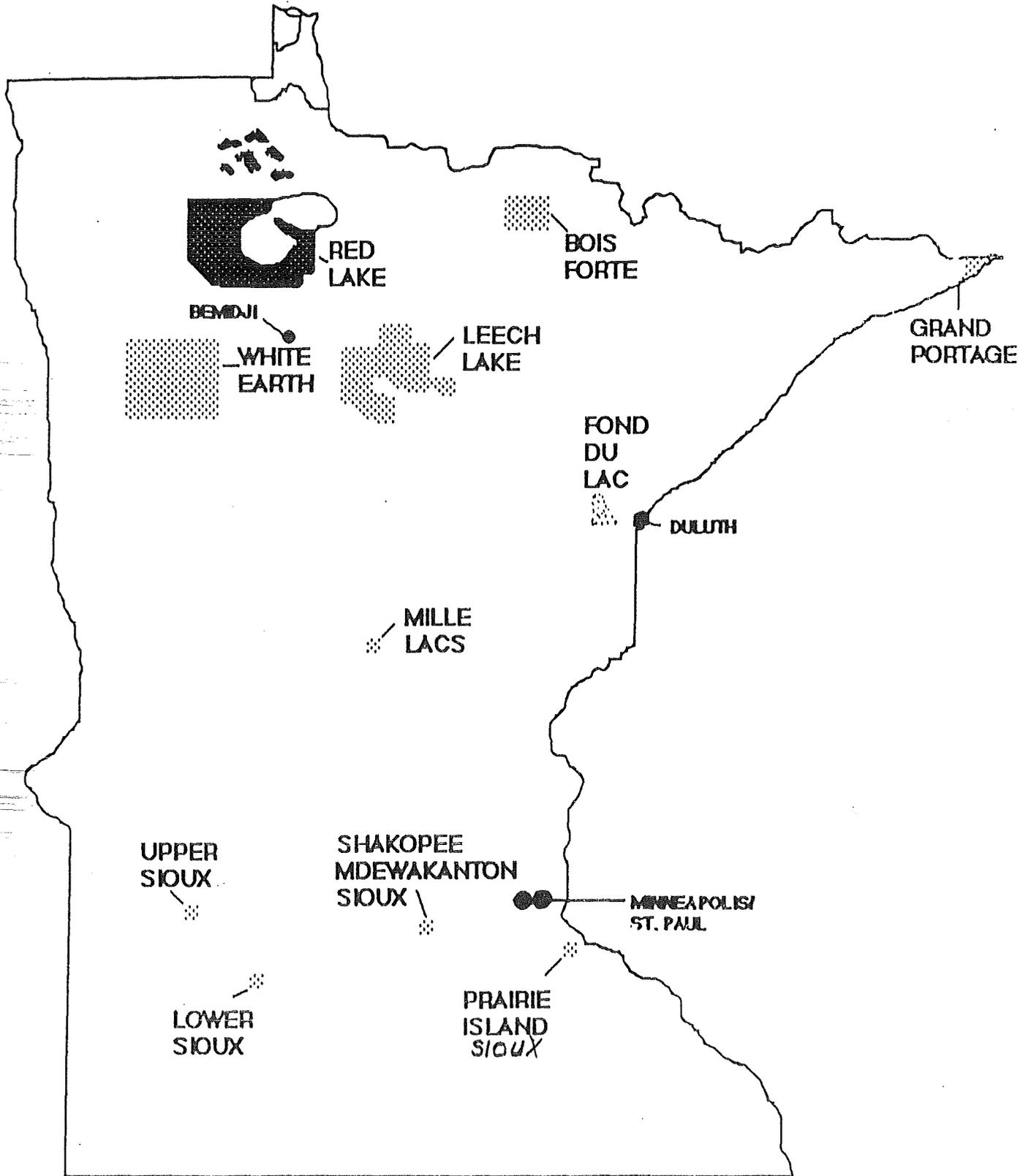


Roger Head
Executive Director

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MINNESOTA INDIAN RESERVATIONS



The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) was created by the 1963 Legislature, and is the official liaison between state and tribal governments. The Council's membership comprises the 11 Tribal Chairmen and two At-large members representing American Indians residing in Minnesota, but who are enrolled with tribes in other states. In addition, there is an Urban Indian Advisory Council which advises the Council on the unique problems and concerns of the urban Indian populations in the Twin Cities Metro Area and Duluth.

The MIAC mission is mandated by statute. Among other duties, the Council represents to the Legislature issues and concerns of the statewide American Indian population, recommends legislation which is favorable to Indian tribes and organizations, and advises the Legislature of the impact certain legislation may have upon tribes.

The Council is authorized to employ an Executive Director and additional staff. Currently, there are five staff members in the Bemidji office and 2 staff members in St. Paul.

Bemidji is designated as the headquarters of the Council because it is centrally located between several northern reservations. The Bemidji office administers the Agency's service programs - the Indian Business Loan Program, Equal Opportunity Specialist, and the 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, research and administrative functions.

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

In the past, the MIAC has experienced a good deal of success with its annual legislative agenda. Advocating for continued funding of special programs for Indians has occupied 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.

Urban Advisory Council

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

MEMBERSHIP OF THE MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Darrell "Chip" Wadena, White Earth | Chairman |
| James M. White, Prairie Island | Vice-Chairman |
| Robert "Sonny" Peacock, Fond Du Lac | Secretary |
| Donald G. Gurnoe Jr., At-Large | Treasurer |
| | |
| Eugene Boshay, Bois Forte | |
| Daniel Brown, Leech Lake | |
| James Hendrickson, Grand Portage | |
| Leonard Prescott, Shakopee-Mdewankanton | |
| David Larsen Jr., Lower Sioux | |
| Juanita Echo Hawk, Upper Sioux | |

MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN INDIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Roy James Roberts, Minneapolis | Vice-Chairman |
| Valerie Sheehan, Minneapolis | Secretary |
| Nancy Stanaway, St. Paul | |
| Mary Ann walt, Duluth | |

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

DESIGNEE

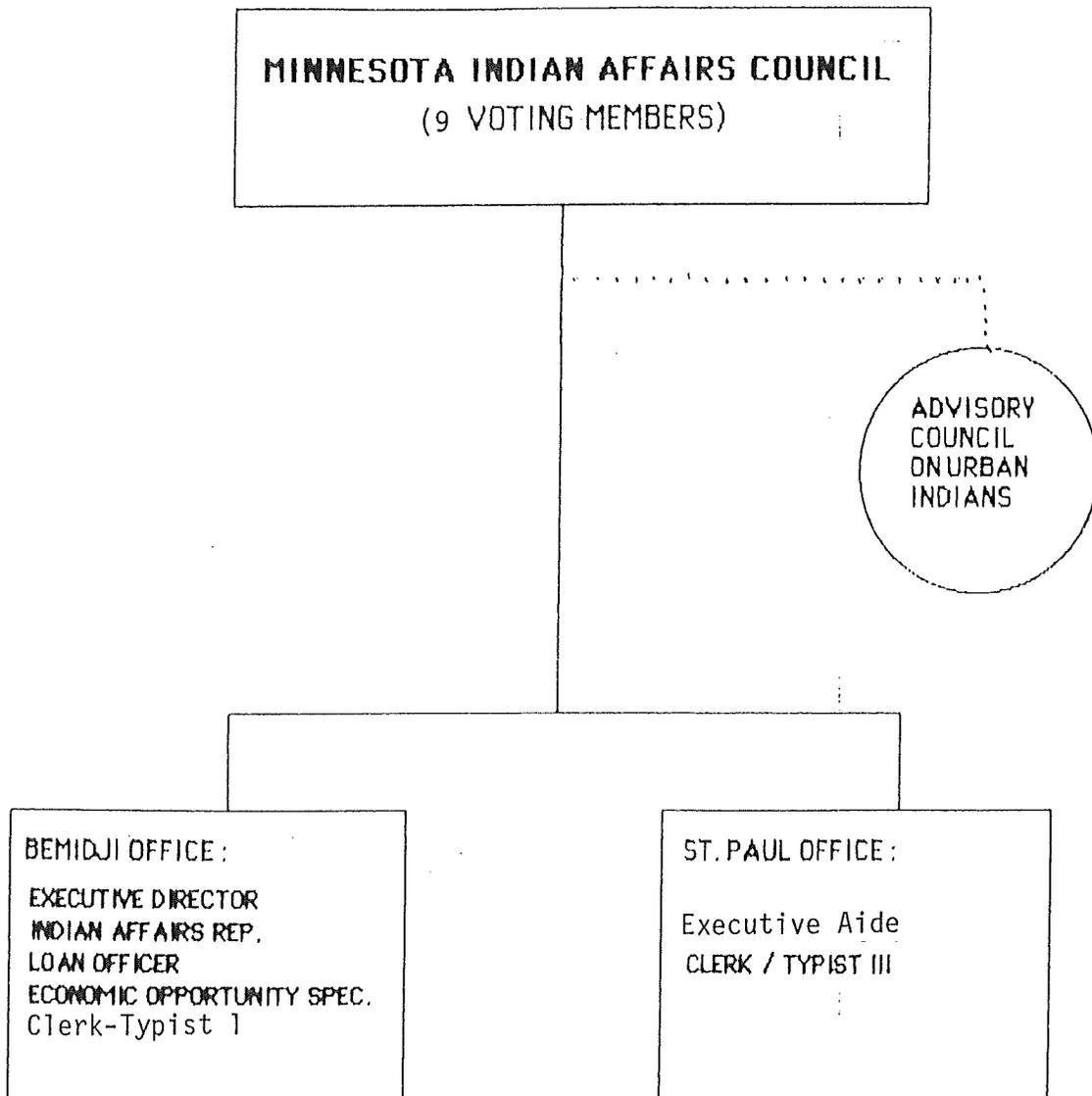
| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Rudolph Perpich, Governor | David Cook |
| Orville B. Pung, Comm., Dept. of Corrections | Lurline Baker-Kent |
| Ruth F. Randall, Comm., Dept. of Education | David Beaulieu |
| Joe Samargia, Comm., Dept. of Jobs and Training | Donald Mohawk |
| Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, Comm., Dept. of Health | Lorene Wedeking |
| Sandra S. Gardebring, Comm., Dept. of Human Services | Frances F. Gurnoe |
| James J. Solem, Exec. Dir., Housing Finance Agency | Donna Fairbanks |
| Joseph N. Alexander, Comm., Dept. of Natural Resources | Joseph Day |
| Jack Deluca, Comm., Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation | Brian Hiti |
| Stephen W. Cooper, Comm., Dept. of Human Rights | Gary Gorman |

INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 1988

| <u>Original Appropriation</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|---------------|
| Per Laws 1985, First Special Session, Chapter 13, Section 38 | 329,300.00 |
| Transfer In, Salary Supplement | 8,314.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Receipts | 337,614.00 |
| <u>Expenditures</u> | |
| Salaries | 250,014.47 |
| Supplies and Expense | 41,932.93 |
| Council Members Expense | 5,596.51 |
| Indian Burial Grounds | 24,233.94 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Expenditures | 321,777.85 |
| Unallotted/Unliquidated | 15,836.15 |

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



A Vision For The Future

For twenty-five years the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has played a vital role in linking the tribal governments of Minnesota's American Indians with branches of State government on matters that concern Minnesota's Indian people. The first Indian Affairs Council in the United States, and used as a model for other state governments, the Council is a clearinghouse for information and a forum for cooperative ventures.

As we approach the last decade of the twentieth century, the Council leadership recognizes the need to build on the successes we have experienced to develop strategies that will have long term positive effects on the lives of Indian people in Minnesota. Tribal leaders see the value in setting long-range goals as a means to advance the socio-economic well-being of the people they represent. An orientation to the future, asking the questions that will tell us where we want to be as a tribe, a band, a nation in five years, in ten years, in the year 2000, will allow us to broaden our expectations of what it is possible for us to achieve.

Too often in the past we have set our goals too low, or failed to realize that the lessons we can learn in our attempts to reach a goal are as valuable as those we can learn from our achievements. An excellent example of a shift in thinking is the way in which the Indian community has responded to the national tragedy of the spread of the AIDS virus has touched the lives of American Indians in Minnesota as it has touched the lives of so many families throughout the country. Recognizing this serious danger to survival the Minnesota American Indian AIDS Task Force works with the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota AIDS Project, Indian Health Boards, and the reservations to provide culturally appropriate information to Minnesota Indians about AIDS stereotypes and to prevent the further transmission of the virus among the population.

An increased availability of culturally based programs of all types signals our awareness that Indian involvement in a program is a key factor in its success. Participating in the development of projects from the very beginning will avoid the too frequent failure of programs made up for Indians by non-Indians. Too often not enough money is made available to attack an ill-defined problem considered out of context.

An orientation to the future will allow us to make advances in every area that

concerns us in the essential arenas that shape our daily lives; education, economic development, health care, and housing.

The year 2000 will see more American Indian college graduates. We will expand the traditional higher education choices of social work and elementary education to include options that will result in more American Indians with business degrees, more engineers, hydrologists, doctors, and lawyers.

Where 25 years ago the struggle was to get Indians into existing chemical dependency programs, our challenge today is to provide appropriate culturally-based Indian chemical dependency programs that address the issues of self-esteem and self-worth in a society where racial prejudice is a fact of life.

Economic development and job creation are essential to a thriving economic life for Indians living off the reservations as well as on. Tribal leaders are examining the alternatives available to them as they seek to provide incentives for businesses to develop and to locate on reservation land. Training and motivating a skilled work force is necessary to counteract the discrimination many Indians experience in the job market.

Advances must be also made in the way we plan for our housing needs of the future. The young professionals and technicians, many of them two-income families, first time home buyers, should see low interest revolving loan funds or other incentives that will encourage them to return to put their skills to work on the reservations.

Program development is sometimes inhibited by a lack of data about the problems and issues facing Minnesota's minority populations. The MIAC supports establishing a Minority Data Network proposed by the MN Council on Black Minnesotans to compile and maintain credible and viable quantitative and statistical data on minorities. The data base is crucial to the identification of issues, problems, and legislative initiatives.

Minnesota's American Indians share with other Minnesota minority populations a concern for appropriate mechanisms to ensure the enjoyment of basic civil and human rights. But unique among Minnesota's ethnic minorities is the government to government relationship of American Indians established by treaties between nations. Living within the boundaries of other governments' jurisdictions Minnesota's American Indians have a unique role to play in the cultural pluralism that is this state's rich resource. Historically a patriotic people who have

never hesitated to serve their country on the battlefield, American Indians in Minnesota wish to live in peace as good neighbors, negotiating as necessary in good faith and mutual respect.

Indian Burial Program

During FY 1985, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council staff worked with the State Archaeologist in carrying out the provisions of MN Stat. 307.08, the Private Cemeteries Act and Indian Burial Law.

Staff worked with various state agencies to provide protection for Indian cemeteries. The Minnesota Historical Society, Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources have been very cooperative in assisting with the provisions of MN Stat. 307.08. We have protected both existing recorded sites and have requested and received cooperation to test for unrecorded and unknown sites to be recorded and protected as they are found.

Staff has attended numerous meetings of the Council for Minnesota Archaeology and Minnesota Science Museum, U.S. Forest Service, and we are involved in the planning process for archaeology in Minnesota for the future. We have worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for cooperation from federal agencies in protecting cemeteries and archaeological sites in Minnesota.

We have initiated a very comprehensive reburial of the human remains of American Indian people that have been unearthed in the past and stored in various institutions throughout the State. We are working along with the archaeological and anthropology scientific communities in an effort to identify, study and return to the Indian communities these remains for their proper reburial, showing respect for the deceased. In 1988 we worked on 22 sites, 110 reburials, and identification of 45 cemeteries. Our ten year goal is to rebury those remains that are presently being stored on shelves/boxes and on display in museums in as respectful and dignified manner as possible. Needless to say, this is a very costly venture and we need monies to accomplish this extensive undertaking.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is, should be, and will be proud to say that we are leading the nation with our cemetery protection projects, reburial/reinterment efforts as we are proud to lead the nation in housing, education, and chemical dependency fields for American Indians.

Indian Business Loan Program

The Indian Business Loan Program, enacted by the Legislature in 1973, provides Minnesota-based Indians with the opportunity to establish or expand a business enterprise in Minnesota and provides resources for management and/or technical assistance to clients who are either in business or wish to start a business.

Funds for this program come from a small percentage of the Severed Mineral Rights taxes that are collected by counties each year. The total amount collected averages approximately \$89,000 per year; this total is then distributed among the eleven (11) reservations in the state. Some of the smaller reservations, such as Grand Portage, receive approximately \$1,300 per year to loan out to their constituents. The relatively small amounts of monies available for business loans for each reservation per year still has wide ranging impact in terms of the types and number of businesses that are assisted by this program. We are proud that this business loan program is the only one of its kind in the nation.

Funds are administered by the Indian Affairs Council. When an eligible Indian applies for a business loan, the application is forwarded to the Council for review of appropriate documentation. If all information is present, the application is sent to the appropriate tribal council which then makes a prudent decision on whether to approve or reject the application. If the loan is approved, the application is returned to the 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 the project. Other financing must be approved and in place before funds are disbursed under this program. Regular financial information is required, such as balance sheets, income and expense projections, cash flow statements and a good business plan which must show a reasonable chance for success.

The law requires that a reasonable portion of the funds allocated to each reservation under this program, be reserved for businesses located off the reservation. Each individual tribal council decides how much of their available funds will be set-a-side for this purpose.

During FY 88, twenty-two (22) loan applications were received totalling \$412,371. Of this number, five (5) applications were cancelled due to no response for additional information requested; nine (9) applications are pending decisions by the various tribal councils; ten (10) loans were approved totalling \$138,544; however,

two (2) loans were cancelled due to non-availability of other financing, and out of this number, six (6) loans totalling \$73,891 have been disbursed as of this report date. Delinquency rates are minimal; three (3) loans which are in arrears more than six months are now in foreclosure status. One loan is more than six months in arrears, but arrangements have been made with the client to resolve this situation.

As reported last year, the Legislative Auditor's concern regarding the high fund balance that remains unused by those reservations that do not have their programs in operation is in the process of being resolved. One reservation with a very high balance of unused funds is now in the negotiation stages with the Attorney General's office and this program will be operational in the very near future. This agency will be developing a format, working with the Attorney General's office, to make the rest of the unused funds accessible to those reservations who have successful loan programs in operation, thus conforming to the legislative intent of the program and insuring continued benefit to Indian people statewide.

Other activities of the IBL staff, along with regular loan officer duties, include maintaining separate records of all IBL monies forwarded by counties and clients; furnishing year-end reports on these monies to each reservation; executing semi-annual site visits to clients; providing a six month report to individual reservations regarding loan activities and payments received, and meeting with reservation staff on a regular basis.

IBL staff also devotes time and expertise to other organizations, boards and committees whose functions promote business/economic development and increase growth potential to individuals and small businesses.

As the volume of loan portfolios grow activities of the IBL program are increasing. The Indian Affairs Council is attempting to obtain private funding toward the acquisition of two computers. One computer would take care of the IBL program and all the paperwork, recording and data retrieval that is required. The other computer, to be located in our St. Paul office, would facilitate the need for tracking laws, research gathering, program information and other activities the Council becomes involved in during the year. We are finding that the Council has become recognized as the central information base regarding Indians, not only statewide, but nationwide as well.

Economic Opportunity Programs

The Minnesota Department of Jobs & Training, through an interagency agreement with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, provides funding for the position of Economic Opportunity Program Specialist II to provide information and technical assistance to support a range of programs and activities that have a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in the communities. The purpose of the agreement is to promote understanding of programs, identify problems, and recommend solutions for improvement so that established objectives of the respective programs are accomplished. Programs administered include the Community Service Block Grant-Basic, Community Service Block Grant-Supplement, Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant, Head Start Program, Emergency Community Services Homeless Grant Program, DOE Weatherization, DOE/T&A, EAP Weatherization Conservation Program, Energy Assistance Program, and Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Contracts are awarded to eleven (11) reservation governments based on the most recent census count available to the State of Minnesota. Allocations for the various grant programs were awarded to each reservation government based on the most census count. In some cases, a base funding is added to the allocations. In most instances, grant awards based solely on population counts do not begin to meet the needs of each reservation's population. For this reason, coordination of grant planning among Community Services administered grants is essential, as is the mobilization of supplemental resources. This is the seventh year the Community Services Block Grant has funded the position of an Indian Affairs Council Economic Opportunity Program Specialist II. The Program Specialist's schedule calls for time spent at the IAC in Bemidji and the Community Service office in St. Paul on a regular basis.

Activities

The MIAC, through the Economic Opportunity Program Specialist, is involved in all phases of programs administered by the Department of Community Services. Review of grantee files and records for each reservation for all grants, assessment of financial audit reports, progress reports, client reports and determination that grantees are invoicing on a timely basis. Site visits to eleven reservation grantees on a quarterly basis have proved to be essential in assessing local efforts to increase productivity and self-sufficiency in providing more

and better service to people in need. Site visits also enhance communication between the Department of Community Services and the Tribal governments. Grants are reviewed and monitored to ensure compliance procedures are met. The Economic Opportunity Program Specialist provides technical assistance on invoicing procedures and is involved with Grantee Assessment Review (GAR), and Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program reviews as well as reviewing base documents that must be on file for continued grantee eligibility and contract compliance.

Goals and Objectives

Each reservation government has determined what essential program activity must be accompanied to meet the required needs of low income residents. The Council believes that work carried out by the Economic Opportunity Specialist is of benefit in seeing that these programs get off the ground and are seen to a successful completion. Continuation of this project is dependent on continued federal appropriation and renewed support from the Department of Community Services.

Setting An Agenda

What do we want to see in the future for American Indians in Minnesota?
Our vision is for a better life for the people we represent.

We want a better life for our grandmothers and grandfathers, our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters and sons, our aunts, uncles and cousins.

We want to continue to articulate a way of living that is tribal in nature, communal in practice, and a sense of identity that transcends individual self-interest.

We want to bring to a society struggling with the realization of consequences of unbridled individualism a different point of view. This different point of view can communicate a system of values that will benefit the society as a whole.

The MIAC is not the only player in setting an agenda for the future. But the Council is uniquely positioned to provide leadership, a focus for concern, and a voice for the representatives of tribal governments as we determine our destiny.

Many American Indians have soft voices, but the ideas and sentiments expressed by those voices are clear and convincing. The voices are making the case for an agenda for American Indians in Minnesota that will ensure a future into which our people can stride confidently, a future that exists for them, a future in which they have an important role to play.