National Congress of American Indians

2021 Mid Year Conference

Virtual Event - NCAI Alaska Region | June 20 - 24, 2021

DRAFT MID YEAR AGENDA
Sunday, June 20

11:00 - 12:30  NCAI Fund Board Meeting

1:00 - 4:00  NCAI Executive Committee Board Meeting

Monday, June 21

12:00 - 3:00  Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

12:00 - 4:00  NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women  
*closed to press*

The NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women serves as a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against Native women. The Task Force will hear updates from key federal partners, discuss the strategy to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and other important legislation, and share information related to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

11:00 - 1:00  NCAI Federal Recognition Task Force

The Federal Recognition Task Force was established to address the interests of all Tribal Nations, both federally and non-federally recognized, on changes and challenges in the tribal acknowledgement process. This session will continue the work of the Task Force.

11:00 - 1:00  Technology Task Force

The NCAI Technology Task Force will hold an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of technology and communications in Indian Country. The Task Force is comprised of tribal leadership, tribal telecommunications companies, Information Technology (IT) experts, entrepreneurs, and representatives from tribal organizations.

11:00 - 1:00  NCAI Task Force on Tax and Finance

The Task Force on Tax and Finance will facilitate Indian Country’s input on issues within the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee’s purview, organize tribal priorities on legislative tax policy, facilitate Indian Country consensus on developing and proposing solutions to address dual taxation, and share information regarding tribal-state tax agreements.

11:00 - 1:00  NCAI Tribal TANF Task Force

The NCAI Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Task Force will discuss current Administrative and legislative initiatives impacting Tribal TANF nationally, with the goal of highlighting solutions and discovering best practices in order to overcome barriers to the delivery of programs.

2:00 - 4:00  NCAI Addiction Task Force

The NCAI Addiction Task Force will discuss administrative and legislative priorities to increase access and improve the function of behavioral health and addiction programs at the tribal level. The Addiction Task Force has consistently supported efforts to advance education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in tribal communities.

*Please note NCAI Task Forces and Federal Government Consultations are open and do not require registration for NCAI’s Mid Year Conference.*
2:00 - 4:00 **NCAI Climate Action Task Force**
The working mission of the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) is to “document, inform, and support the climate action efforts of tribal nations and Native organizations and identify and advocate for policies and funding designed to empower their ability to engage in effective, sustainable climate action.”

2:00 - 4:00 **The Tribal Border Caucus**
Tribal citizen crossings of the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders for traditional, cultural, or religious purposes has been a paramount concern for Tribal Nations split by the invisible lines that divided their homelands and relatives. The Tribal Border Caucus invites all northern, southern, and Alaska border Tribal Nations to provide updates and discuss ongoing issues such as crossing the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic, travel visas, treaty rights, and searches of tribal regalia or cultural items.

2:00 - 4:00 **Joint NCAI-ITA Transportation Task Force**
The NCAI Transportation Task Force is focused on building a unified advocacy approach to tribal transportation development and legislative reauthorization to promote safety and prosperity in tribal communities and to ensure the United States upholds its government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations.

2:00 - 4:00 **NCAI Budget Task Force**
The NCAI Budget Task Force will discuss the recently released FY 2022 President’s Budget Request to Congress, FY 2022 regular appropriations, and supplemental physical and human infrastructure appropriations with the goal of developing consensus strategies to overcome barriers to funding increases for tribal programs and the implementation of federally funded programs in tribal communities.

4:30 - 5:30 **NCAI Committee and Subcommittee Chairs Meeting with Resolutions Committee**
NCAI requests that all committee and subcommittee chairs attend this important meeting.

4:30 - 7:00 **Consultation- Implementing recommendations from the 2015 Coordinated Environmental Review Process for tribal housing and related infrastructure**
The Tribal Housing and Related Infrastructure Interagency Task Force is drafting an implementation plan to execute the recommendations from the 2015 Coordinated Environmental Review Process: Final Report and is seeking input and feedback on the plan. Comments and input will be considered before the implementation plan is finalized. The Final Report and draft implementation plan can be found on [CodeTalk](#).

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Tuesday, June 22

11:00 - 5:00  Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

Tech Support Open

1:00 - 8:00  Resolutions Open

12:00 - 4:00  **First General Assembly**

12:00  **Call to Order and Welcome**
Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

Presentation of the Colors

**Land Acknowledgement**
Aaron Leggett, President and Chair, Native Village of Eklutna

**Invocation**

12:20  **Welcome from Local Official**
Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)
Senator Dan Sullivan (AK) *invited*
Congressman Don Young (AK)
Governor Mike Dunleavy (AK) *invited*

12:40  **Rules of the Convention**
Yvonne Oberly, Co-Chair, NCAI Rules and Credentials

**Resolutions Process Report**
Leslie Wheelock, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee
W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

12:45 - 1:00  **President’s Report**
Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

1:05 - 1:15  **Chief Executive Officer’s Report and Overview for the Week**
Dante Desiderio, Chief Executive Officer, NCAI

*Break*

1:25 – 2:40  **Historic Tribal Inclusion: What is Next?**
Vice President Kamala Harris *invited*
Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation
Secretary Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy
Secretary Marty Walsh, U.S. Department of Labor *invited*
Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S. Department of Commerce *invited*

*Break*

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2:50 – 3:35  **Department of the Interior Update**
Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Department of the Interior
Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
Anthony Morgan Rodman, Executive Director, White House Council on Native American Affairs

5:00 - 6:00  **Regional Caucus Meetings**  
Alaska Region  Pacific Region
Eastern Oklahoma Region  Rocky Mountain Region
Great Plains Region  Southeast Region
Midwest Region  Southern Plains Region
Northeast Region  Southwest Region
Northwest Region  Western Region

6:30 - 8:00  **Subcommittee Meetings**  
*Some subcommittees are meeting in the same Zoom room*

Health
Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns
Public Safety & Justice
Technology & Telecommunications
Transportation & Infrastructure
Veterans

*Room 1*
Disabilities
Education
Elders

*Room 2*
Economic Development, Finance & Employment
Housing

*Room 3*
Energy & Mineral Policy
Environmental Protection & Land Use
Trust Lands, Natural Resources & Agriculture

*Room 4*
Jurisdiction & Tribal Government
Indian Child & Family Welfare

*Room 5*
Taxation
Tribal Gaming

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**Wednesday, June 23**

**Native Prayer Sunrise**
We encourage everyone to recognize prayer sunrise in your own way.

11:00 - 5:00 **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**

1:00 - 8:00 **Resolutions Open**

12:00 - 3:30 **Second General Assembly**

12:00 **Call to Order and Welcome**
Aaron Payment, 1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians

**Invocation**
Gregory Nothstine, Inupiaq

**16th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum**
Governance, Trust, and Culture in Research

The purpose of the Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum is to provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, community members, and others to present their data research to tribal leaders, policymakers, and community members.

12:15 **NCAI Policy Research Center Director Update**
Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH, Director, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

12:30 **Tribal Leader Perspective**
Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba, DNP, MPA, Chief, Mohegan Tribe

12:50 **Discussion**

1:00 **Engaging Native Youth in the COVID-19 Response: Findings from the Arizona Youth Identity Project**
Angela Gonzales, PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Director, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Nathan D. Martin, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

1:20 **Discussion**

1:30 **Indian Health Service National IRB Update**
Rachael L. Tracy, MPH, Research Director, National Institutional Review Board, Chair, Indian Health Service

1:50 **Discussion**

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2:00 **Native Mascot Database Update**
Ian Record, PhD, Vice President, Tribal Governance and Special Projects, National Congress of American Indians
Coby Klar, Research Associate, Tribal Governance and Special Projects, National Congress of American Indians

2:20 **Discussion**

2:30 **Southcentral Foundation Research Department Update**
Denise A. Dillard, PhD, Director of Research, Southcentral Foundation

2:50 **Discussion**
Announcements

3:00 - 3:30 **Tribal Leader Discussion**

4:00 - 5:15 **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**AI/AN Juvenile Justice Data**
This session will focus on recent NCAI work on AI/AN Juvenile Justice Data including case studies of innovation in Tribal Nation Juvenile Justice Systems and a landscape analysis of state policies related to over-, under-, and equal representation of AI/AN juveniles in the arrest and confinement stages in selected states.

Moderator: Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva, MPP, Researcher, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

**Innovation in Tribal Nation Juvenile Justice Systems**
Ryan Seelau, JD, LLM, SID, Senior Researcher, Partnership for Tribal Governance, National Congress of American Indians

**Landscape Analysis of State Policies Regarding AI/AN Youth in the Justice System**
Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva, MPP, Researcher, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

**COVID-19 Data**
During this session, presenters will provide data related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including tribal college enrollment data and behavioral health consequences of the pandemic.

Moderator: Yvette Roubideaux, MD MPH, Vice President for Research and Director, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

**AIHEC – Tribal College Enrollment Data during COVID-19 Pandemic**
Carrie L. Billy, President & CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium

**COVID-19 and American Indians and Alaska Natives: Behavioral Health Consequences of the Pandemic**
Dedra Buchwald, MD, Professor, Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, Director, Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH), Washington State University

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Community Partnership Data
This session will highlight results from community-academic partnerships that worked on intellectual property management in agricultural collaborations and reducing violence and substance abuse.

Moderator: Sierra Watt, Research Associate, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

Gaps in Intellectual Property Management in Tribal-University Agricultural Collaborations
Kathryn Hilburn, Student Researcher, Montana State University (MSU) Food Product Development Lab

Wan-Yuan Kuo, PhD, Assistant Professor of Food Science, Director of MSU Food Product Development Lab, Department Health and Human Development, Montana State University

Catherine E. McKinley, PhD, LMSW, Associate Professor, Tulane University School of Social Work

Katherine P. Theall, PhD, Professor, Tulane University School of Public Health

Brackeen v. Haaland: Breaking Down the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals En Banc ICWA Decision and the Next Steps to Protect Native Children and Tribal Sovereignty
Over the past two years National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Native American Rights Fund, and the Association on American Indian Affairs have worked together to create the Protect ICWA Campaign to help coordinate policy, legal, and communications efforts to protect Native children and uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act. This panel will focus on the outcomes of April 5, 2021, 5th Circuit En Banc ruling, what does the ruling mean for Tribal Nations today, and how you can join in the efforts to protect Indian children in the next steps of the case.

Building Climate Resiliency: Highlighting Tribal Innovations from Across Indian Country
This session will showcase the breadth and depth of tribal climate action efforts across Indian Country and identify strategic considerations of tribal climate action plan design and implementation. This session will feature representatives from three geographically diverse Tribal Nations who are leading cutting-edge climate resiliency efforts, as well as key voices who will speak to tribal climate action pathways and challenges nationally.

Moderator: Melanie Bahnke, President, Kawerak, Inc., Co-Chair of NCAI’s Climate Action Task Force

Panelists:
- Jeffrey Crawford, President, FCPC Renewable Generation, LLC, Forest County Potawatomi Community (Invited)
- Louisa McCovey, Environmental Director, Yurok Tribe (Invited)
- Jackie Qatalina Schaeffer, Senior Project Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Invited)

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5:30 - 6:45  Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Building Civic Power in Indian Country  
This session will introduce civic engagement as a means of building civic power within Indian Country and highlight the current stage of the civic engagement cycle. The session will include a recap of the outcome of the 2020 Census and a review of Native Vote 2020 to demonstrate the importance of data and how it can show impact. Next, a short presentation will showcase the current stage of the civic engagement cycle with an introduction to redistricting, followed by a panel who will discuss their redistricting work with Tribal Nations or as a part of their state’s redistricting boards before closing with a question and answer segment.

Moderator: Yanenowi Logan (Deer Clan, Seneca Nation), Co-Vice President, NCAI Youth Commission

Speakers:
- Yawna Allen (Quapaw, Cherokee, Yuchi), Director of Civic Engagement and Special Projects, National Congress of American Indians
- Saundra Mitrovich (Tymeye/Yahmonee Maidu), Civic Engagement Associate, National Congress of American Indians
- Dr. Yvette Roubideaux (Rosebud Sioux/Standing Rock Sioux), Vice President for Research and Director of the Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians
- Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva (Snow Clan, Hopi) Researcher, Policy Research Center

Panelists:
- Ahtza Chavez (Dine) Executive Director, NM Native Vote
- Tammi Tiger (Chahta, Mvskoke, Euro American) Vice Chair, United Natives
- Nicole Borromeo (Yup’ik) Executive Vice President, Alaska Federation of Natives
- Travis Lane (Navajo/Southern Ute) Assistant Director, Intertribal Council of Arizona

Building Tribal Economies: Framing the Strategic Considerations
This breakout session explores the key strategic considerations that tribal leaders, key decision-makers, and citizens must address as they work together to build thriving, resilient tribal economies. Featuring a panel of insightful voices sharing the innovative economy-building approaches of the Tribal Nations they represent, the session will also provide attendees a “sneak peek” preview of NCAI’s forthcoming “Building Tribal Economies” decision-framing toolkit, which NCAI will be distributing to Tribal Nations later this year. The toolkit will equip Tribal Nations with the knowledge, tools, best-practice approaches, and proven strategies they need to develop and sustain strategic approaches to building economies that meet their needs and priorities.

Moderator: Sherry Salway Black, Chairperson, First Peoples Fund

Panelists:
- Raeanne Adams, Project Director and Community Planner, “One Akwesasne” Tourism Initiative, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Dennis Johnson, CEO, Ho-Chunk Capital, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Tyrel Stevenson, Legislative Director, Coeur d’Alene Tribe

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Juvenile Justice: Innovative Approaches Across Indian Country
This breakout session showcases three innovative approaches taken by Tribal Nations to address juvenile justice issues within their communities. It features a panel of legal experts and on-the-ground practitioners sharing the institutions, policies, and programs their Tribal Nations have developed to address issues of substance abuse, mental trauma, truancy, and crime that so often tear communities apart. Attendees will hear strategies for engaging Native youth and helping them stay connected to their families, cultures, and communities. The session will also preview NCAI’s release of three juvenile justice case studies produced in full collaboration with the Tribal Nations they feature, and which will provide additional transferable lessons for tribal leaders, practitioners, and key decision-makers trying to heal and strengthen their youth and their communities at-large.

Moderator: Ryan Seelau, Senior Researcher, Partnership for Tribal Governance, National Congress of American Indians

Panelists:
- Addie Rolnick, Professor of Law, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV
- Kami Hart, Children’s Court Judge, Gila River Indian Community
- Chaniel Grant, Coordinator, Healing to Wellness Court, Blackfeet Nation

Mitigating, Responding, and Recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Accessing FEMA Resources to Protect Tribal Citizens Today (session will go until 7:00 p.m.)
On March 13, 2020, the past Administration issued a Presidential Nationwide Emergency Declaration to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Declaration covered all 574 Tribal Nations and provided an avenue for those Nations to directly access Public Assistance resources from FEMA. Despite over a year passing, only 15 percent of all Tribal Nations (91 of the 574) have been able to access FEMA resources either as a direct or sub recipient under the Nationwide Emergency Declaration or under a Tribal Major Disaster Declaration. On April 2, 2021, FEMA leadership committed to supply every Tribal Nation that is interested in accessing FEMA Public Assistance COVID-19 resources with a dedicated FEMA program delivery manager to help the Nation navigate the complex FEMA process. During this breakout FEMA will discuss how it is working to ensure that one hundred percent of Tribal Nations are able to directly access and utilize FEMA COVID-19 resources on the ground in Indian Country. Tribal emergency managers will also provide insights into the process to access FEMA resources through the Nationwide Emergency Declaration and a Tribal Major Disaster Declaration.

7:00 - 8:30  Full Committee Meetings
Economic, Finance & Community Development
Human Resources
Land & Natural Resources
Litigation & Governance
Veterans

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Thursday, June 24

11:00 - 12:00  **Regional Caucus Meetings**  
Alaska Region  
Eastern Oklahoma Region  
Great Plains Region  
Midwest Region  
Northeast Region  
Northwest Region  
Pacific Region  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Southeast Region  
Southern Plains Region  
Southwest Region  
Western Region  

Closed to press

1:00 - 4:30  Third General Assembly

1:00  **Call to Order and Welcome**  
Juana Majel-Dixon, Secretary, National Congress of American Indians  

**Invocation**  
Chief Michael Williams, Sr., Akiak Native Community  

1:10 - 1:40  **Tribal Supreme Court Project Update**  
John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund  
Joel West Williams, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund  
Dan Lewerenz, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund  

1:40 - 1:50  **Treasurers Report**  
Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, NCAI  

Break

2:00 - 2:35  **Congressional Update: Infrastructure and Native American Caucus**  
Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (NY)  
Congressman Tom Cole (OK) invited  
Congresswoman Sharice Davids (KS)  

2:35 - 2:50  **Treasury Update**  
Jacob Leibenluft, Chief Recovery Officer, Department of Treasury  

2:50 - 3:30  **Tribal Leader Discussion: Community and Economic Recovery**  
President Rodney Bordeaux, Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
President Shelley Buck, Prairie Island Indian Community invited  
Chief Cyrus Ben, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians invited  
Chairman W. Ron Allen, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  

Break

3:40  **Resolutions Committee Report**  
Full Committee Reports and Consideration of Resolutions  
Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee  
Human Resources Committee  
Litigation & Governance Committee  
Land & Natural Resources Committee  
Veterans Committee

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4:20  Closing Invocation  
       Shirley Kendall, Tlingit

4:30  Adjourn 2021 Mid Year Conference

Friday, June 25

1:00 - 3:00  Tribal Consultation on Tribal General Welfare Exclusion (TGWE) Act  
We invite you to attend a tribal consultation relative to the Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships dated January 26, 2021. The Social Security Administration and the United States Department of the Treasury are seeking your recommendations and feedback on the Tribal General Welfare Exclusions Act. Register in advance for this meeting.

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