



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior (Department) invites you to participate in several upcoming listening sessions during the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 2016 Mid-Year Conference. These listening sessions are not formally a part of NCAI and are open to all tribes and individuals regardless of NCAI registration.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to engage with Tribal Leaders to obtain their input and feedback on the issues that are important to Indian Country. For this reason, we have scheduled the following listening sessions during NCAI's 2016 Mid-Year Conference, to be held at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016

Listening Session on Proposed BIE Leasing/Fundraising Rule 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Room: 402A

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) proposed a new rule (25 CFR 48) that implements statutory authority for BIE to lease land or facilities for funding that benefits schools. The rule also implements statutory authority for BIE school employees to fundraise on behalf of the school, allows authorized personnel to spend a reasonable portion of his or her official duties fundraising, and allows unlimited fundraising in a personal capacity when not on duty. The BIE seeks your input on this proposed rule.

Listening Session on Potential Probate Rule Revisions 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Room: 402A

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is considering revising its probate regulations to increase the monetary limit for distribution of Individual Indian Monies (IIM) account funds to pay for funeral services, allow BIA to make minor estate inventory corrections, and to clarify the Office of Hearings and Appeals authority to order distribution of trust funds when there is only trust personalty (no land) in a decedent's estate. The BIA seeks your input on these and any other changes to the probate rules you would like to see.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016

Listening Session on International Repatriation 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Room: 402B

Tribal governments and the Obama Administration have placed a high priority on international repatriation. The Department would like to provide an update regarding the illicit sales of ceremonial objects and sacred items in the international market:

- Recent activities and current initiatives with the French Government and the Estimations Ventes aux Enchères Auction House;

- Recent activities and current initiatives with the French Government and the Estimations Ventes aux Enchères Auction House;
- Efforts to bring awareness to the practice of the illicit sales of sacred objects in the international market; and
- Working with foreign museums on the repatriation of ancestral human remains, associated funerary objects, and items of cultural patrimony.

Additionally, the Department would like to hear from Tribal Leaders regarding their specific international repatriation challenges and successes, and ideas on how tribes, the Department and other Federal agencies can work together to develop best practices to improve international repatriation efforts.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016

Listening Session on Fee-To-Trust
Room: 302A

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Representatives of the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and BIA invite tribes to participate in a listening session on the fee-to-trust process and reservation proclamations. Indian Affairs is also interested in hearing from tribes on any pending fee-to-trust applications.

Regular and meaningful input from Tribal Leaders are an important part of this Administration's commitment to informed decision making and honoring the United States trust relationship with tribal nations.

Thank you for your leadership. I would like to remind you of my open door policy – please visit <http://www.bia.gov/ContactUs/> in order to request a meeting at any time. If you have further questions, please contact my office at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Lawrence S. Roberts
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs