

Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs 2007-09 Strategic Plan

Mission Statement:

The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs *promotes* the government to government relationship between the State of Washington and Indian Tribes, *advocates* for the social and economic betterment of all American Indians and Alaska Natives living in Washington State and *educates* for a greater cultural understanding of the State's first citizens.

Agency Overview:

The GOIA was created by Executive Order to assist the Governor, state agencies, and tribal governments with formal government-to-government relations. The 1989 Centennial Accord signed by then-Governor Booth Gardner, reaffirmed tribal sovereignty and secured the executive branch's commitment to ensure that the rights of the tribal governments are fully respected. The primary goal of the GOIA is to further the principles established in the Centennial Accord and to build strong government-to-government relationships between state agencies and tribal governments.

Statutory Authority:

The statutory functions for the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs are derived from, Executive Order 83-16:

- Director of GOIA shall be a member of Governor's policy staff and will advise on all Tribally-related matters.
- Assist and advise the Governor's Office and State agencies in the development of effective policies.
- Provide assistance to American Indian/Alaska Native citizens in their efforts to work with state government to resolve issues of concern.
- Serve as liaison for the Governor's Office between the State of Washington, Tribal governments, Tribal organizations and the Tribal community.
- Provide an education program for effective government to government relations and cultural understanding.

The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs also receives is operational guidance from the protocol agreements located within the Centennial Accord and New Millennium Agreement signed between the State of Washington and Indian Tribes in 1989 and 1999, respectively. The protocol agreements and principles of both the Centennial Accord and New Millennium Agreement were affirmed by Governor Gregoire in a Proclamation signed on April, 28, 2005.

2007 – 09 Goals:

Goal #1 Advance and implement the principles of the Centennial Accord and New Millennium Agreement.

Strategies:

1. Plan, organize and staff annual Centennial Accord meetings. This includes:
 - a. Develop an annual expense budget for Accord meetings.
 - b. Identify sponsorship and cost-saving strategies.
 - c. Confirm meeting locations for upcoming and future locations.
 - d. Maintain database of meeting attendees.
2. Provide timely dissemination of Accord meeting minutes and track action items to Tribal leaders, Governor's Office and Cabinet members.
 - a. Maintain "Centennial Accord Issue Matrix".
3. Conduct monthly meeting with State agency Tribal Liaisons to communicate activities and strategies related to Centennial Accord.
4. Convene and/or facilitate government to government consultation meetings, as needed.

Goal #2 Strengthen relations and outreach to Tribal governments, Indian organizations and Urban Indian communities.

Strategies:

1. Develop and maintain positive relations with Tribal governments. This includes:
 - a. Regularly contacting Tribal leaders and staff via face to face meetings, phone and email.
 - b. Coordinating and organizing meetings/visits for Governor, Senior Staff, Executive Cabinet, etc.
2. Build increased relationships with Indian organizations. This includes:
 - a. Identifying and maintaining a comprehensive list of Tribal organizations at the state, region and national level.
 - b. Regularly attend conferences, meetings and summits of organizations like Association of Washington Tribes, Washington Indian Gaming Association, American Indian Health Commission, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Gaming Association.
 - c. Collaborating on issues of mutual concern.

3. Attend or organize regular meetings with Urban Indian representatives from Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and Vancouver.

Goal #3 Provide responsive policy analysis on Tribally-related issues to Governor's Office, Tribal Governments, State Agencies and the Legislature.

Strategies:

1. Develop an 'issue matrix' to identify, track and monitor Tribally-related issues. This includes:
 - a. Collaborating with Governor's Executive Policy Office, appropriate State agency staff and Tribal staff.
2. Develop executive briefings, legal analyses, policy and budget analyses, bill review, correspondence with appropriate tribes and state administrations.
3. Track and monitor legislative proposals at local, state and national levels that impact Tribes, Tribal communities, and provide updates to appropriate Governor Office and State agency staff.

Goal #4 Update and improve communication outreach, including website, listserv, Tribal Directory and newsletter.

Strategies:

1. Develop a GOIA comprehensive communication outreach plan
2. Develop a new user-friendly and customer responsive website.
3. Regularly maintain a "Tribal Directory" with current up-to-date information. This includes:
 - a. Converting the Tribal Directory from PDF files to a 'field-based' search engine.
4. Create a comprehensive list-serv database.
5. Develop an electronic monthly newsletter featuring both State and Tribal highlights.

Goal #5 Develop proactive strategies to enhance the social and economic well-being of all Indian citizens living within Washington State.

Strategies:

1. Work with Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations and community members to develop a community-based strategy targeted at reducing health disparities. This also includes:

- a. Collaborating with State ethnic commissions to host or facilitate meetings and/or summit
- b. Actively participating on 'health disparity' committees or task

2. Work with Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations and community members to develop strategies for improving the educational achievement gap among Indian Students. This includes

- a. Collaborate with Indian Education Office from OSPI
- b. Participate in developing implementation protocols for HB1495, Tribal History and Curriculum in Common Schools

3. Work with Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations and community members to develop enhance economic development opportunities. This includes:

- a. Collaborate with Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, Office of Minority Owned Business and other appropriate agencies.
- b. Develop operational framework for 'State/Tribal Tourism Partnership'

Goal #6 Provide training and educational opportunities to increase Tribal cultural awareness.

Strategies:

1. Develop a new marketing plan for GOIA Government to Government Training to increase class attendance.

2. Develop a level two training course focused on issue case studies.

3. Provide public speaking engagements on government to government relations and Tribal issues.