

**2017 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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**Work Plan**

The New Mexico Legislative Council created the Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) on June 5, 2017. The IAC addresses issues and policies that affect Native Americans in New Mexico. In view of the fact that the IAC aims to address issues and policies relating principally to New Mexico's Native American population, the IAC strives to conduct its meetings in locations that are accessible to the state's tribal members and their leaders. Moreover, meeting at the various Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico facilitates government-to-government cooperation. The IAC meetings are essential to the work of the legislature in addressing the issues affecting this segment of its constituency.

The IAC proposes to explore and discuss topics in each major issue area affecting Native Americans during the 2017 interim as follows:

**A. State-Tribal Relations:**

1. receive updates from Native American liaisons or similarly tasked individuals from state executive agencies to assess outreach efforts, challenges and successes;

2. discuss services provided to urban Indians and the work of the City of Albuquerque's recently reactivated Commission on Indian Affairs;
3. receive a report from the Indian Affairs Department and tribes to assess the successes and challenges of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act and find ways for improvement; and
4. receive a report on state-tribal agreements, partnerships and shared responsibilities and benefits regarding intergovernmental agreements.

B. Health, Environment and Safety:

1. receive an update on the impact of, and response to, the Gold King Mine spill;
2. receive a report on uranium cleanup projects in the Grants mineral belt;
3. discuss health care access, delivery and financing for Native Americans; and
4. examine safety efforts along U.S. Route 550.

C. Development in Indian Country:

1. receive a report on New Mexico's consumer lending industry and state regulation of lending practices, including the impact on Native Americans;
2. discuss drilling on sacred sites in and around the Navajo Nation;
3. discuss Indian gaming issues;
4. receive a report on rights of way on tribal land, especially in light of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals' recent *PNM v. Barboan* decision;
5. receive a report on tribal fuel taxation;
6. receive a report on New Mexico's energy resource future and how it will affect state revenues;
7. receive an update on REDINET and the rural broadband special audit; and
8. receive a report on opportunities provided by the federal Department of Defense to Native American veterans and their families.

D. Education:

1. review school transportation and cross-boundary agreements;
2. review Native American study programs, initiatives and resources at state higher education institutions and tribal colleges;
3. receive an update on charter school education in Indian country;
4. receive an update on federal and state impact aid and ongoing lawsuits;
5. receive an update and report relating to funding, statistics and accountability measures of the Indian Education Act;
6. receive a report on the status of the proposed repeal and replacement of maintenance and enrichment programs and its impact on Native American programs and Native American students;
7. receive a report on the status of funding and program implementation for increasing the number of Native American teachers, educational leaders and administrators;
8. receive a report on House Bill 484 (2017 regular session), which requires needs assessments in school districts for Native American students and requires a systemic framework to close the achievement gap for Native American students;
9. hear an assessment of the use of P.L. 874 by school districts supplanting programs as a result of budget cuts;
10. receive a briefing on *Yazzie v. New Mexico*; and
11. receive a report from the University of New Mexico (UNM) regarding Native American support and programs for Native American faculty and students; undergraduate and graduate schools and programs; and status of the UNM seal.

E. Protection of Cultural Resources:

1. receive a report on the implementation of federal Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2016; and

2. receive a report on the status of the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan for the Greater Chaco Landscape.

F. Courts and Criminal Justice:

1. receive updates from the Southwest Indian Law Clinic and the American Indian Law Center on current programs and issues;
2. discuss tribal courts and issues and the challenges they face;
3. review tribal jurisdiction and cross-deputization in law enforcement;
4. receive a report on the history of and issues surrounding the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and how it intersects with criminal and family law;
5. receive a report on alternative sentencing in the courts; and
6. receive a report on the metropolitan court model for driving while under the influence.

G. Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

1. receive a report from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission regarding:
  - a. state and federal funding for Aamodt settlement obligations;
  - b. the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state financing;
  - c. the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements; and
  - d. recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights;
2. receive a report from the Indian Affairs Department regarding the compiled reports from all state agencies on activities pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, including information on policies, plans, contact individuals, training, programs and services from each agency;
3. receive a report from the Tribal Infrastructure Board regarding the total expenditures from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for the previous fiscal

year, the purposes for which expenditures were made, an analysis of the progress of the projects funded and proposals for legislative action in the subsequent legislative session; and

4. receive a report from the Human Services Department on the development of standards and criteria certifying families and homes, the state providing resources to tribes for foster care programs, the establishment of a state-tribal judicial consortium and revisions to the Children's Code in compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

**Indian Affairs Committee  
2017 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 20	Room 322, State Capitol, Santa Fe
July 24-26	Chi Chil Tah Chapter; Pueblo of Zuni; Gallup
August 21-22	Tse Daa K'aan Chapter (formerly Hogback); Nenahnezad Chapter (August 22 joint meeting with the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee)
September 6-8	Akela Flats; Las Cruces
October 4-6	Standing Rock Chapter; Torreon Chapter; Pueblo of Sandia (October 4 joint meeting with the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee)
November 27-29	Pueblo of San Ildefonso; Ohkay Owingeh; State Capitol, Santa Fe