

**2012 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Membership

Rep. James Roger Madalena, Co-Chair
Sen. John Pinto, Co-Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Ray Begaye
Rep. Sandra D. Jeff
Sen. Lynda M. Lovejoy
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom

Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. George K. Munoz
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Sen. John C. Ryan
Rep. James E. Smith

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Ernest H. Chavez
Sen. Eric G. Griego
Sen. Stuart Ingle
Sen. Timothy Z. Jennings

Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Sen. William E. Sharer

Work Plan

The New Mexico Legislative Council first created the Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) in 1989 and has continuously created the IAC ever since. On May 9, 2012, the IAC was once again created by the New Mexico Legislative Council to address issues and policies that impact 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 needs of this constituency.

Because the issues that affect Native Americans transcend any one subject matter, the committee will coordinate, as needed, with other committees regarding presentations of subject matter of common concern. The committee proposes to explore and discuss the topics in each major issue area affecting Native Americans during the 2012 interim as follows:

A. State-Tribal Relations:

1. study the feasibility of state programs to increase marketing efforts to promote Native American enterprises pursuant to SM 61 (2012);
2. review the process for entering into and renewing the Indian Gaming Compact;

3. study the process to establish state recognition of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico;
4. review the progress of the coordinated multiagency five-year plan to address uranium legacy and cleanup of abandoned uranium mining and milling sites led by the federal Environmental Protection Agency;
5. discuss state resources available to Native American farmers and ranchers affected by severe drought conditions and Indian resource development institutes focused on agriculture, engineering and business education;
6. assess state resources for recovery assistance to the pueblos affected by the severe wildfires of 2011;
7. reevaluate the settlement of state income tax refund claims from the Native American Veterans' Income Tax Settlement Fund;
8. review voter redistricting in communities of interest;
9. review state-tribal jurisdiction on domestic matters, including enforcement of protective orders; and
10. evaluate state agency reports on activities pursuant to Section 11-18-4 NMSA 1978.

B. Health:

1. assess health care for Native Americans and in Native American communities;
2. evaluate response to suicides in Indian country, including:
 - a. implementation of a statewide clearinghouse for Native American suicide prevention and culturally based suicide prevention initiatives for Native Americans as mandated by SB 417 (2011 regular session); and
 - b. investigations of deaths due to exposure or on railroad tracks;
3. review mental health programs and services for Native Americans; and
4. explore issues of domestic violence against Native American women and children.

C. Development in Indian Country:

1. discuss capital outlay concerns, including tracking the expenditure of allocated funds, alternative funding sources and coordination with the Navajo Nation, including chapter certifications under the Navajo Nation's Local Governance Act;
2. review the funding of projects from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund, including the projections of allocated amounts pursuant to Section 7-27-10.1 NMSA 1978;
3. review the funding of the Indian water rights settlements, including the Navajo, Aamodt and Taos Pueblo, and Abeyta Indian water rights settlements, including the use of severance tax bonding capacity;
4. study the feasibility of installing center median guardrails on rural United States Highway 550 for public safety pursuant to SM 36 (2012); and
5. explore tribal utility projects on Indian lands, including gas and electric projects.

D. Education:

1. evaluate the implementation of the Indian Education Act, the American Indian Post-Secondary Education Act and general education of Native Americans, including improvements to performance;
2. review Native American study programs and resources at higher education institutions; and
3. study the feasibility of providing lottery scholarships to otherwise eligible students who attend tribal colleges.

**Indian Affairs Committee
2012 Approved Meeting Schedule**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| June 21 | State Capitol, Santa Fe |
| July 26-27 | Dulce/Beclabito Chapter |
| August 30-31 | Albuquerque/Pueblo of San Felipe |
| September 24-26 | Pueblo of Laguna/Crownpoint/Gallup |
| October 25-26 | Pueblos of Santa Clara/San Ildefonso |
| November 26-27 | Pueblo of Pojoaque/Santa Fe |