



Building Strong Sovereign Nations: Anishinabek Leadership for Seven Generations

Strengthening partnerships between Indian Tribes in Michigan, the MSU Native American Institute & Michigan State University Extension

The **Building Strong Sovereign Nations** (BSSN) program was designed to provide an overview of information critical to effective tribal governance through two days of workshops. Our steering committee and curriculum writers have designed the program to meet the specific needs of Michigan tribes. The BSSN trainings are intended to serve three primary audiences:

- **Elected tribal officials**
- **Appointed tribal officials (members of tribal committees, commissions, and boards), and**
- **Key tribal staff who interact closely with elected and appointed tribal officials**

Elected tribal officials and Michigan tribal leaders identified the need for this new training initiative. The subsequent curriculum was developed in strong partnership with tribal leadership. Tribal chairpersons from four of the tribes in Michigan, as well as, the Executive Director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, served on the steering committee to ensure the training is relevant and useful to Michigan tribal leaders.

BSSN is co-administered by MSU Extension and the MSU Native American Institute. Michigan State University Extension has had decades of experience training government officials through programs such as **Citizen Planner** and the **New County Commissioners** training and has established a track record of working effectively with tribal governments through its county-based, regional, and statewide educational initiatives. The Native American Institute has collaborated with tribes in Michigan for over 25 years to address many critical issues in Indian Country.

Day One: Wednesday - February 4, 2009		* Tentative Schedule *	Day Two: Thursday - February 5, 2009	
7:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast	7:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast	
8:00am - 8:30am	Opening Welcome	8:00am - 8:45am	<i>Morning Energizers:</i>	
8:30am - 10:15am	The History of Anishinabek Tribes in Michigan Dr. George Cornell		True Colors Personality Sorter Jim Wiesing	
10:15am - 10:30am	Break	8:45am - 10:15am	Fiscal Management in Indian Country John Amrhein	
10:30am - 12:00pm	The Re-emergence of Tribal Governance MSU Indigenous Law and Policy Center	10:15am - 10:30am	Break	
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch	10:30am - 12:00pm	Conducting Effective Meetings in Tribal Communities Julie Pioch	
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Tribal Governance Legal and Public Policy MSU Indigenous Law and Policy Center	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch	
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Break	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Communication, Conflict Resolution and Decision Making in Tribal Communities Jim Wiesing	
2:45pm - 4:15pm	Tribal Council Roles and Responsibilities MSU Indigenous Law and Policy Center	2:30pm - 3:30pm	<i>Wrap Up Workshop</i>	
4:15pm - 4:30pm	Break		Identifying Future Tribal Training Needs Tribal Leader Observations Acknowledgements Conference Evaluations	
4:30pm - 5:45pm	Government to Government Relationships Nick Reo and Panel of Elected Tribal Leaders			
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Dinner Discussion Tribal Issues & Problem Solving			
7:30pm - ?	<i>Hospitality Reception & Tour</i> Turtle Creek Resort Operations			

Across State v Across Country

Why pay thousands of dollars to attend training not specifically designed for tribes in Michigan? The advantage of local or regional training is a significant reduction in costs. No air fare. No expensive hotel. With the savings, train three or four individuals rather than one.