



**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS  
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740**

**Tribal Council Travel Report Narrative**

Name:	Julie Shananaquet, TC Member	Date:	October 23, 2015
Training/	72 <sup>nd</sup> NCAI Annual Convention, San Diego, CA		
Event:	October 18 – 22, 2015		

I respectfully submit this report to my fellow Tribal Council members and the Citizens of LTBB and extend my sincerest thank you for the opportunity to attend and represent my tribe at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) conference.

**Sunday, October 18, 2015**

*Note: As a cost saving measure Councilor Law and I carpoled to and from Traverse City Airport. My report will consist of brief summaries of the content of sessions attended and General Session Updates/presentations.*

After registering for conference I attended the afternoon session of Department of Justice (DOJ) Consultation on VAWA funding.

Brief session description: Consultation regarding setting aside funds to assist Tribes in exercising Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ) pursuant to section 904 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. DOJ would like to initiate formal consultation with officials of federally recognized Indian tribes to discuss this proposal.

This was a very emotional and heated session centered around DOJ's questionnaire sent to Tribes regarding funding needs from the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) funds. Many participants in attendance found this to be a mechanism for pitting tribes against one another in pursuit of the limited funds. Some attendees believed that the Tribes who participated in the pilot programs continue their work, while other less affluent tribes stressed the need to continue receipt of funds which already were minimal and not meeting their needs, note many were not even participating in VAWA procedures/law. As a note of interest, the three original tribes of the VAWA pilot program were not awarded funds. Tulalip Tribe will be drafting more appropriate question for DOJ. It was unfortunate for Councilor Law and myself that this session was a continuation of the morning session which we missed due to travel. Looking forward to seeing the draft questionnaire prepared by Tulalip, and it is my recommendation that we contact Tribe.

**Monday October 19, 2015**

I attended a full day of General Sessions (I & II) consisting of formal NCAI order of business, welcome speeches and various updates. Of notable interest is the Ramah case which involves

Department of the Interior (DOI) improperly calculating the indirect cost rates for Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. The settled claims for alleged underpayments of contract support costs by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and/or the Office of Self Governance (OSG) brings nearly \$1 billion to Indian Country.

Julian Castro, Secretary, US Department of Housing and Urban Development addressed HUD and VA programs including housing programs for homeless veterans. Check into programs such as Home Connect and Opening Doors.

On a more discerning note during the updates presented by NARF, and NCAI General Counsel, there is great concern with the continued attack on the Indian Child Welfare Act and the number of cases being referred to the Supreme Court involving Indian Self-Determination and Sovereignty. The message conveyed was that cases sent to Supreme Court for rulings generally do not favor Tribes and it is important that Tribes unite and stand in support of cases being forwarded to higher courts. An example and presentation was made with regards to the Dollar General Amicus Brief.

What was most disheartening to me during this session was the discussion raised by leaders of various tribes concerning the alarming rate of suicides occurring within Indian Country. Tribal representatives questioned why NCAI wasn't focusing on this problem and many believe lack of resources from the Indian Health Services to address the problem of alcoholism, drug abuse and historical trauma contribute to the problem of suicides. Considering that this was not a devoted agenda item a lot of recurring discussion took place during this convention.

I attended the Welcome Reception and Cultural Night hosted by the Kurneyaay Nation. I was a little ashamed when attendees were scolded three times for being rude (loud discussions) that interfered with the story telling session. The latter part of presentation involving the traditional song and dance was pleasant. Look into new native film called "Escape".

### **Tuesday October 20, 2015**

My day began with attending the Midwest Caucus meeting. It was brought up that only two Michigan Tribes hold membership w/National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). I have attached an application for membership for consideration. Also included as an attachment is a questionnaire regarding climate change. Data will be used at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris November 30-December 11, 2015. President Cladoosby stopped by for an impromptu visit.

General Session III – Recording Secretary/NCAI and SSM Tribal Chairman facilitated this morning's session. Of notable interest for me was the presentation on Adverse Childhood Experience Study (ACE). Although all the data has not been fully analyzed, this study is based on participant responses and report refers to some of the most intensive and frequently occurring sources of stress that children may suffer early in life such as multiple types of abuse, neglect, in home violence, bullying and other household dysfunction such as alcohol and substance abuse. These early childhood stress factors generally lead to serious problems such as alcoholism, depression, eating disorders, unsafe sex, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. The information provided was informative....very technical and dry speaker.

Several discussions geared toward the issues faced by Alaskan Tribes.

I had the pleasure of attending the Youth Honoring Luncheon and meeting Tribal Leaders from Alaska, Washington and Minnesota, but the true blessing was in meeting the guest speaker and award winner Noah Blue Elk Hotchkiss. Noah is a humble, inspirational and amazing young man

who was named the 2015 SPORTS 'N SPOKES Junior Athlete of the Year. Noah was injured (spinal cord) in a car accident at the age of 11 and deals with loss of mother and injuries to his younger siblings resulting from accident and despite his injuries he has gone on to teach and participate in tennis, surfing, whitewater rafting and wheelchair basketball. Noah is currently involved in "Dreamstarter" to help youth overcome their disabilities.

Brief session description: "Health Sovereignty" The Swinomish tribe recently made a declaration that it would be moving towards incorporating Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT's) into their system of care to improve the oral health of their citizens.

This system of oral health care has increased the overall number of "star" dental reports of children of Alaskan villages participating or utilizing DHAT's. The clinic chain of command will include another position, Dentist, Oral Hygienist, Dental Health Aide Therapists, Dental Assistant. Work is currently taking place to negotiate insurance coverage of the new position of DHAT which is not a recognized position within the Dental Association. Since this is basically a pilot use of personnel (positions held by Tribal member employees who only treat Tribal member patients), insurance coverage is not billable. Currently Alaska has the only Training and Certification Center for dental health aide therapist which is a 2 year program. Swinomish Tribe has created a Division of Licensing equivalent to State, adopted their own Dental Health Licensing code and created a Dental Health Board of Directors. The following website will provide more information: [www.swinomish.org/gov/code](http://www.swinomish.org/gov/code) Further discussion included Tribes purchasing insurance for tribal citizen from the individual Market Place. In the long run, this purchase is offset by 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Billing.

#### **Wednesday October 21, 2015**

General Session IV - 2015 Honoring Nations Finalists consisted of five Tribal finalist who shared presentations about their innovative accomplishments. High Honors were awarded to the following:

- Nez Perce conservation and management of fish, hatchery production, replenishment of threatened and endangered aquatic species, and habitat restoration.
- Iroquois Youth "Under the Husk" Rites of Passage program. This phenomenal ceremony and teachings, transitions adolescents into adults over a period of seven years. Graduates then become mentors to new members entering the program.
- Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes' School Based Health Centers. The School Based Health Centers provide quality mental, dental, and health access for all students and promotes interaction between elders and youth in teaching and promote the importance of cultural values in the maintenance of health.

Honors were awarded to the following:

- The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's Ho-Chunk Village and Ho-Chunk, Inc. The Ho-Chunk Village's residential area will include over 110 housing units featuring single home ownership and multi-family rentals and live-work units on a 40 acre site designed to be a walkable community.
- The Kenaitze's Tribal Court of Alaska tribal/state "Court Appointed Special Advocates" (CASA) volunteer program. The Kenaitze Tribe established the first Tribal Court CASA volunteer program in Alaska and trains volunteers to support abused and neglected children in both the tribal and state courts. This partnership with the state of Alaska insures that children in the area who have a CASA volunteer, will maintain that same volunteer even if the case transfers between state and tribal courts.

Nominations and speeches were made for the four top positions on the NCAI Executive Board, of

which three positions continued with current incumbents who were unchallenged . President Brian Cladoosby, Treasurer Ron Allen and Secretary Aaron Payment will maintain their respective positions. On Thursday voting will take place for Juana Majel-Dixon, Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians/California, or \*Randy Noka, Narragansett Tribe/Rhode Island, for the Vice-President position.

\*Randy Noka won seat of Vice-President

**Thursday October 22, 2015**

Travel Day. Yay, returned to cold Michigan and very happy to see there was no snow on the ground!

Special Note: I recommend that future Resolutions designating Tribal voting representative include the designee and at a minimum two alternatives. Discussion needs to take place on how representative will cast vote on behalf of Tribe and Tribe should be ready with Resolutions for presentation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to attend the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Congress of American Indians Conference.

2 Attachments: Indigenous Peoples and Nations Consultation on Climate Change 3 pgs.  
NICWA Membership Application 1 pg.

# Indigenous Peoples and Nations Consultation on Climate Change: *"Defending our Rights and Defining our Priorities on the Road to Paris and Beyond"*

Questionnaire distributed by the International Indian Treaty Council in preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris November 30 – December 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

Your name and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Indigenous Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Country and State/Province/Territory: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your role (educator, rights advocate, tribal leader, food producer, community organizer, cultural/spiritual leader, elder, youth/student, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many individuals/communities' input are represented in your responses? \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date and location: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. How important is the issue of Climate Change to your Community/Tribe/Nation/Peoples?

- very important       important       somewhat important  
 not important       don't know

## 2. Have you seen impacts of climate change on your environment, weather, food systems and/or land base?

- Yes       No       Not sure

## 3. Please identify specific impacts. (check all that apply)

- Changes in rainfall or snowfall (please specify)  
 Increase in rainfall

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## Section 1. Membership Type

### A. Individual Membership

This category is designed for individuals in the field of Indian child welfare. Benefits are non-transferable and accessible only to the individual member.

Abalone \$50   
Turquoise \$100   
Coral \$200   
Elder/Student Rate \$25

### B. Tribal Membership

This category includes federal and state recognized and unrecognized tribes in the United States and Canada. All member benefits are accessible through the tribe, and up to five individuals may be included in the membership.

Turquoise \$400   
Coral \$1,000

### C. Organizational Membership

This category includes organizations and agencies that serve AI/AN communities, provide social services, or are Native owned or operated. All member benefits are accessible through the organization, and up to five individuals may be included in the membership.

Turquoise \$400   
Coral \$1,000

### D. Associate Membership

This category is for individuals or corporations who do not work in the ICW field or provide social services, but wish to be recognized as members.

Associate Individual Member \$50   
Associate Corporate Member \$1,000+

## Section 2. Contact Information

Name or Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Tribe/Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 3. Tribal/Organizational Members

Please let us know which personnel, in addition to the primary contact, will access member benefits:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 4. Payment Options

Enclosed is my check made payable to "NICWA" (must be payable in U.S. dollars)

Credit Card Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: Visa    Master Card    Discover    American Express

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

3-digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code of Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct all forms, payment, and/or questions to:

NICWA Membership

5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300

Portland, OR 97239

Phone: (503) 222-4044, ext. 110

Fax: (503) 274-1645

Email: justin@nicwa.org



# NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association  
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture