



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL NARRATIVE
Submitted by: Michael Naganashe, Tribal Council Member

Training/Event: Inaugural Symposium - Marijuana: The Next Big Thing in Native
American Economic Development
Location: San Diego, CA
Date of Event: March 30, 2015

I Michael Naganashe, attended the Inaugural Symposium - Marijuana: The Next Big
Thing in Native American Economic Development, March 30, 2015

Monday, March 30, 2015

Please see attached highlighted agenda to reference sessions attended . If you have
question regarding information provided in training session, please feel free to e-mail or
call me.

Respectfully Submitted


Michael Naganashe
Tribal Council Member

Attach: Agenda



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Inaugural Symposium - Marijuana: The Next Big Thing in Native American Economic Development?



[FULL AGENDA](#)

Marijuana Native American Economic Development

Marijuana: The Next Big Thing In Native American Economic Development?

<http://nativenationevents.org/conference/marijuana-symposium/>

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Harbor House- Seaport Village • San Diego, CA

Monday, March 30th

7:30—8:30 AM Registration/ Breakfast / Networking Opportunity

8:30—8:45 AM Opening Remarks

8:45—9:15 AM Key Note Address

9:15—10:15 AM Department of Justice Policy Shift

In December the DOJ announced a policy shift but did not change the law that allows federally recognized tribes to grow, manufacture and sell Marijuana products on their reservations. The DOJ was very clear however that like other growers around the country Tribes had to follow the same guidelines or could face prosecution. It is very clear that the DOJ is not pro-marijuana or anti-marijuana but it is pro-sovereignty. While many believe this is clearly another signal that the Obama administration respects the sovereign status of Indian Lands many others were perplexed why various committees as well as tribal leaders were not consulted on this change. Several tribes are very interested in looking into this industry to boost their economic development and pay for basic services such as health care and education. Other tribes are quickly banning marijuana on their land even in states where it is legal as well as reaching out to the DOJ to make sure they will still help in the prosecution of those who violate the law. Several are concerned of the public safety implications this can have on their people. This panel of experts will address the legal aspects from the Federal, State and Tribal Government enforcement side. What will it take for tribes to be in compliance with what at the moment looks to be a very un-regulated industry but that will change sooner rather than later. Each member of the audience will walk away from this panel with a much clearer understanding of the legal landscape when entering into the marijuana industry.

10:15—10:45 AM Coffee Break /Networking Opportunity

10:45—11:30 AM The Next Big Thing: Looking at the Economic Opportunities

It is estimated that if all States legalize marijuana by the year 2020 this will be a \$35 Billion Dollar industry. In the last year alone investment dollars increased by 941% from the year prior and that is with just four states legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Some experts estimate about \$2 Billion being invested in the next few years and many of them are eager to be the investors. Many experts believe the marijuana industry can be a substantial source of income for tribes for several reasons such as the huge competitive advantage they will have by not paying taxes on their earnings. In fact some believe tribes will be able to sell their product 30% cheaper than non-tribal manufacturers. Most agree this industry will not be as lucrative as gaming has been to Native America but others believe like gaming, it will start off slow and then boom. 11:30—12:30 AM What the Impact of Legalization of Marijuana for Recreational Use Can Have on Gaming Around the Country It is widely anticipated that California will be one of the next states to legalize the recreational use of marijuana and set aside a percentage of revenue to go into housing, healthcare, public safety and drug abuse treatment and education. While the Colorado Governor is suggesting other states take a wait and see approach to see what the unintended consequences are many states are charging ahead. In addition to states looking to fill their coffers with the additional tax revenues from the private sector they are also looking at cost savings from cutting down on police departments and even prisons who enforce and house violators of the drug trade. It is no secret that California also happens to have more tribal owned casinos than any other state. While Casino revenue as a whole remains strong in Native America, individual tribes are being hurt by states allowing more commercial licenses as well as other tribe building casinos to the point of oversaturation. What are the opportunities for these enterprises? If tribes are allowed to produce and sell it should we expect to see such things as Green

floors and bars at casinos and hotels where their patrons can purchase and use marijuana products? This panel will examine the potential benefits a tribe might be able to take advantage of with the opportunities presented.

12:30—1:30 PM Lunch /Networking Opportunity — \$18

1:30—2:30 PM Social Ramifications of Entering Into The Marijuana Business

It's no secret that Native Americans have a legacy of substance abuse and in fact are at the top of just about every major statistic you do not want to be on. One in four Native Americans live in poverty and that rate is twice what the national average is. Tribal leaders are still struggling and trying to outweigh the good vs. the bad of entering into the industry. One tribe has already signed an agreement to produce marijuana and a few others are close and publically interested. Many other tribes have reached out to state officials around the country, interested in learning more and wanting guidance. At the same time many tribes have already started to make sure marijuana does not become legal on their reservation for many reasons. This panel of tribal leaders will provide their insight and thought processes when asked the question "Do you see your tribe getting involved in the marijuana business?"

2:30—2:45 PM Afternoon Break / Networking Opportunity

2:45—3:45 PM The Pinoleville Pomo Nation Case Study

The Pinoleville Poma Nation in Northern California are the first federally recognized tribe in the country to enter into an agreement to build an indoor grow facility. They will produce products such as marijuana leaves, flowers, hash, oils, pills and other medicinal liquids for medical purposes only and not for recreational use. The tribe plans to use the estimated \$10,000,000 to help offset the cost of social programs such as elder care, child care and education. Fox Barry Farms who has partnered with them plan to build three such facilities on tribal lands and are in talks with other tribes. This case study will cover the process in which they were able to ink a deal and how the tribe overcame any hurdles socially or legally they may have faced.

3:45—4:30 PM Medical Marijuana

Currently four states, CO, AK, OR and WA allow marijuana for recreational use. However 23 other states around the country have laws on the books making it legal to use for medicinal purposes. It has been found that such ailments like Epilepsy and Autism are helped by marijuana which has been determined to stimulate brain cell activity. What are the other uses for medical marijuana? Does it make a difference to a tribe when choosing to get in or stay out of the industry what their product is intended for? This discussion will bring us up to date on the findings and usefulness that medical marijuana has created.

4:30—5:00 PM Next Steps

5:00 PM Conference Concludes