

**2016 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 May 9, 2016. The IAC addresses issues and policies that affect Native Americans in New Mexico. Because 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 the topics in each major issue area affecting Native Americans during the 2016 interim as follows:

A. State-Tribal Relations:

1. receive updates from the Native American liaisons from state executive agencies to assess outreach efforts, challenges and successes;
2. discuss services provided to urban Indians and the defunding of the Albuquerque Indian Center; and

3. receive a report on the language and interpretation of the laws establishing the tribal infrastructure funds;

B. Health:

1. receive a report on the impact of, and response to, the Gold King Mine spill;
2. examine issues regarding the Four Corners Generating Station;
3. receive a report on uranium cleanup projects in the Grants mineral belt;
4. receive a report from the 2015 Dental Therapy Task Force;
5. receive a report on changes to Medicare and Medicaid and discuss the services provided to Native Americans in light of the 1952 contract for services with Bernalillo County; the Indian Health Service, which represents the 19 pueblos in New Mexico; and the University of New Mexico; and
6. receive a report on the Navajo Nation's program for long-acting, reversible contraception;

C. Development in Indian Country:

1. review transportation issues, including railroad crossings and road projects;
2. receive a report on New Mexico's consumer lending industry and state regulation of lending practices, including the impact on Native Americans;
3. discuss natural gas drilling on sacred sites in and around the Navajo Nation, including proposed federal rules on natural gas venting and flaring;
4. discuss Indian gaming issues;
5. receive a report on rights of way on tribal land; and
6. receive a report on issues regarding the Gathering of Nations;

D. Education:

1. review school transportation and boundary issues;
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 school funding, federal and state impact aid and ongoing lawsuits; and
5. receive a report on the spiritual and cultural exploitation of sacred ceremonial dances by non-native entities;

E. Courts and Crime:

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 the act intersects with criminal and family law;
5. receive a report on New Mexico Legal Aid's Native American Program; and
6. discuss strategies to address sentencing disparity between state and federal courts and the impact on Native Americans convicted of crimes; and

F. Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

1. receive a report from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission regarding:
 - a. the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state financing;
 - b. the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements; and
 - c. 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 and 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. consider recommendations for enhanced protection of cultural items and prevention of the theft, wrongful sale or alienation of cultural items and cultural properties.

**Indian Affairs Committee
2016 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 25	Room 322, State Capitol, Santa Fe
July 18-20	Ramah; Tse Bonito; Gallup
August 29-31	Pueblo of Acoma; Pueblo of Laguna; Albuquerque
September 27-28	Mescalero
October 17-19	San Juan Chapter; Sheep Springs; Farmington
November 29-30	Pueblo of San Ildefonso; State Capitol, Santa Fe