

# OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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# MONTANA TRIBAL FLAGS

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# MONTANA OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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- The Montana Office of Indian Affairs, established in 1951 by the state legislature as part of the Governor's Office, facilitates effective tribal-state communications with special attention given to the issues that Indian people face regarding their unique political status and as full citizens of the State of Montana. The Office of Indian Affairs is a liaison between the State and the Tribes and promotes economic development, environmental stewardship, education, support for social services, and enduring good will.

# DUTIES OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

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- Maintains effective tribal-state communications;
- Meets with state agency directors on issues concerning tribal governments and Indian peoples”
- Acts a liaison for tribes and Indian people, whether the Indian people reside on or off reservations, whenever assistance is required;
- Reports to and advises the Governor’s cabinet and in a member of the cabinet;
- Advises the Montana Congressional Delegation;
- Prepares by September 15 of each year a report to the Tribes state-tribal activities for the prior state fiscal years
- Serves on the following State advisory councils and boards: the State Tribal Economic Development Commission, American Indian Monument and Montana Tribal Flag Circle Advisory Committee, Montana Board of Veteran Affairs, and Interagency Coordinating Council and an advisory group on renaming geographic sites.

# ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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- **Position Overview:**
- This position serves as an Administrative Officer in the Office of Indian Affairs at the Governor's Office, and is responsible for providing a range of administrative support services to facilitate technical assistance, outreach, program support regarding tribal issues and activities throughout the state, and other duties as assigned. The incumbent reports to the Indian Affairs Director and does not directly supervise others.
- Technical Assistance and program outreach
- Program coordination and office management

# OFFICE STRUCTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

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- Office has two positions
  - Director
  - Administrative assistant
- Biennial budget of \$380,063
- Located in State Capitol 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, room 202
- Office located in the Office of the Governor
- Appointed as cabinet member

# NATIVE APPOINTMENTS & STATE POSITIONS

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- Andy Huff—Governor’s Chief Legal Council
- Stacey Otterstrom—Governor’s Boards & Appointments Advisor
- Casey Lozar—Commerce Bureau Chief
- Heather Sobrepena-George—Commerce Program Manager
- Lesa Evers—Tribal Relations Manager
- Office of American Indian Health
- Harlem Trombley—Corrections American Indian Liaison

# TRIBAL LEADERS SUMMIT

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# TRAINING AND CONSULTATION

## MCA 2-15-143

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- The Governor meets and consults annually with tribal leaders. §2-15-143, MCA. During these individual tribal meetings, the Tribes and the Governor discuss rules and policies that impact tribal governments or people and potential solutions to any concerns that are raised.
- The Governor and his staff also travel extensively in Indian Country and maintain open communication with tribal leaders throughout the year

# COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

## MCA 18-11-101

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- Intergovernmental cooperation serves the interests of all Montana citizens while ensuring respect for the sovereign authority of both governments, state and tribal. The State-Tribal Activities Database includes hundreds of agreements or cooperative projects in effect between the Tribes and the State of Montana. The primary state statute which enables state-tribal cooperation is the *State-Tribal Cooperative Agreements Act*, §§18-11-101, *et seq.*, MCA. The Act promotes state-tribal cooperation with regard to mutually beneficial activities and services. The Act also provides for tax revenue sharing to prevent the possibility of dual taxation by governments while promoting state, local and tribal economic development. §18-11-101 (2)-(3), MCA

# COLLABORATION AND PARTNERS

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# STATE AGENCY COLLABORATION

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- Collaborate with MT Dept. of Commerce
  - State Tribal Economic Development Commission, Indian Country Eco Devo Program, Native Collateral Support Program, MT Indian Equity Fund Program, Native Am. Business Advisors
- Collaborate with MT Dept. of Health and Human Services
  - Office of American Indian Health, Tribal Health Improvement Program, Suicide Prevention Program

# MT AMERICAN INDIAN CAUCUS

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- MT American Indian Caucus
  - Passing laws for tourism, economic development, access to health care and education
  - MT American Indian Language Program
  - CSKT Water Compact
  - HELP Act
    - Over 11,000 American Indians enrolled in Medicaid
  - Revise laws related to criminal jurisdiction on the Flathead Indian Reservation
  - Recognizing Tribally Organized Business Entities

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- Jason Smalll (R) SD 21
- Lea Whitford (D) SD 8
- Frank Smith (D) SD 16
- George Kipp III (D) HD 15
- Jonathan Windy Boy (D) HD 32
- Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D) HD 42
- Rae Peppers (D) HD 41
- Bridget Smith (D) HD 31
- Susan Webber (D) HD 16
- Shane Morigeau (D) HD 95



# MONTANA TRIBAL NATIONS

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- Blackfeet Tribe
  - Worked to get brucellosis free buffalo from Canada to reservation
- Chippewa Cree Tribe
  - Secure and distribute funding to preserve tribal language
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
  - Passed \$55 million water compact and implementing it
- Crow Tribe
  - Established higher payments to nursing home= over \$2 million

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- Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes
  - Drought Emergency Declaration
- Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
  - Keystone Project
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
  - Establishing small businesses on reservation
- Little Shell Tribe
  - Federal Recognition

