

Chapter Nine

Tribal Government

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MINNESOTA'S FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

“Recognition” is a legal term meaning that the United States recognizes a government-to-government relationship with a tribe and that a tribe exists politically in a “domestic dependent nation status.” A federally recognized tribe is one that was in existence, or evolved as a successor to a tribe at the time of original contact with non-Indians.

Federally recognized tribes possess certain inherent rights of self-government and entitlement to certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of the special trust relationship.

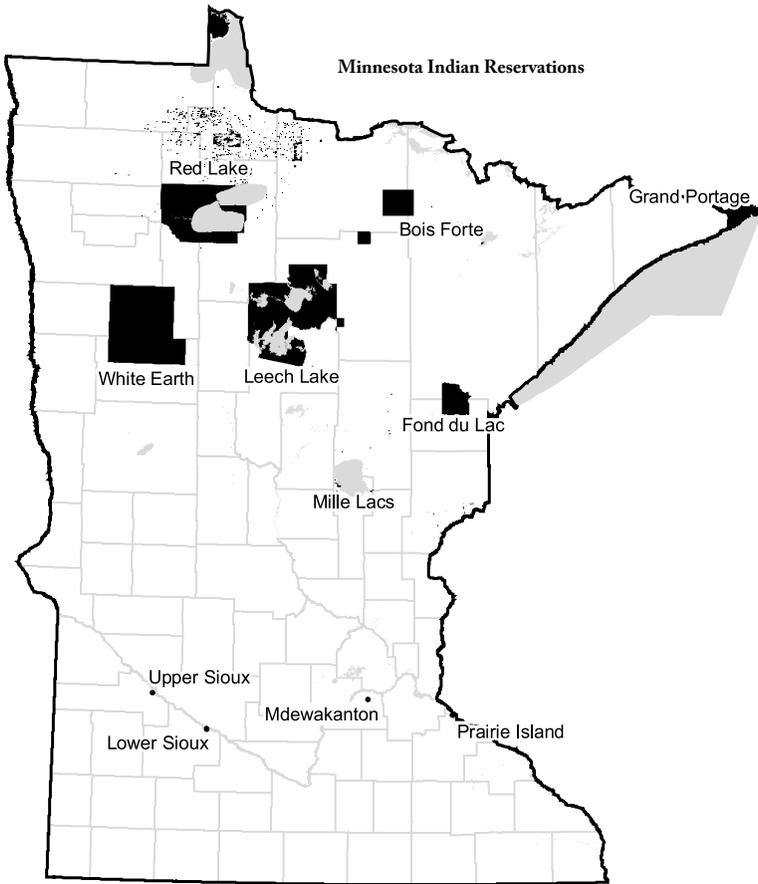
Tribes have the inherent right to operate under their own governmental systems. Many have adopted constitutions, while others operate under Articles of Association or other bodies of law, and some still have traditional systems of government. The chief executive of a tribe is generally called the tribal chairperson, but may also be called principal chief, governor, or president. The chief executive usually presides over what is typically called the tribal council. The tribal council performs the legislative function for the tribe, although some tribes require a referendum of the membership to enact laws.

There are 11 federally recognized American Indian tribes with reservations throughout Minnesota. Seven of these are Anishinaabe (Chippewa, Ojibwe) and four are Dakota (Sioux).

The seven communities of Grand Portage, Bois Forte, Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs comprise the Anishinaabe reservations. These reservations are located throughout northern Minnesota from the central lakes region of the state to the northeastern tip.

In the southern region of the state there are four Dakota reservations: Shakopee Mdewakanton, Prairie Island, Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux. Like the reservations in northern Minnesota, these areas of land were set aside by United States government treaties.

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of American Indian Trust



MINNESOTA'S FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES



Bois Forte Band of Chippewa–Nett Lake
5344 Lakeshore Dr., Nett Lake 55772
Phone: (800) 221-8129 **Fax:** (218) 757-3312
Email: kevin.leecy@boisforte-nsn.gov
Website: boisforte.com
Tribal Chair: Kevin W. Leecy



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet 55720
Phone: (218) 879-4593
Website: fdlrez.com
Tribal Chair: Karen R. Diver



Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
P.O. Box 428, Grand Portage 55605
Phone: (218) 475-2277
Email: Norman@grandportage.com
Website: grandportage.com
Tribal Chair: Norman Deschampe



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
190 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake 56633
Phone: (218) 335-8200 **Fax:** (218) 335-8309
Website: llojibwe.org
Chairwoman: Carri Jones



Lower Sioux Community
P.O. Box 308, 39527 Res. Hwy. 1, Morton 56283
Phone: (507) 697-6185 **Fax:** (507) 697-8617
Website: lowersioux.com
Tribal President: Denny Prescott



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Dr., Onamia 56359
Phone: (320) 532-4181 **Fax:** (320) 532-5800
Website: millelacsobjibwe.org
Email: chief.executive@millelacsband.com
Tribal Chief Executive: Melanie Benjamin



Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Rd., Welch 55089
Phone: (800) 554-5473 **Fax:** (651) 385-4180
Email: rjohnson@piic.org
Website: prairieisland.org
Tribal President: Ron Johnson



Red Lake Band of Ojibwe
Box 550, Red Lake 56671
Phone: (218) 679-1889 **Fax:** (218) 679-3378
Email: dseki@hotmail.com
Tribal Chair: Darrell G. Seki, Sr.



Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community

2330 Sioux Tr. N.W., Prior Lake 55372

Phone: (952) 445-8900

Website: shakopeedakota.org

Tribal Chair: Charlie Vig



Upper Sioux Community Pezihutazizi Oyate

Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane, Granite Falls 56241

Phone: (320) 564-3853

Email: kevinj@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov

Website: uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov

Tribal Chair: Kevin Jensvold



White Earth Band of Ojibwe

Box 418, White Earth 56591

Phone: (218) 983-3285

Website: whiteearth.com

Tribal Chair: Erma Vizenor

STATE TRIBAL-RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN INDIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minnesota Department of Human Services, 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 55101

Phone: (651) 431-2461

Law provides: The 17-member council provides advice on policies, goals, and the operation of chemical health program services. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 254A.035, Subd. 2)

INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

113 2nd Street N.W., Suite 110A, Bemidji 56601; 161 St. Anthony Ave., Suite 919, St. Paul 55103

Phone: (651) 296-0041 Website: indianaffairs.state.mn.us

Law provides: The council includes representatives from Minnesota's 11 tribal governments to advise the governor, Legislature, and state agencies regarding policies, programs and services affecting Indian citizens, and to create public awareness of their needs. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 3.922)

Executive Director: Annamarie Hill

AMERICAN INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

444 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul 55155

Phone: (651) 431-4675

Email: dhs.child.safety-permanency@state.mn.us

Law provides: The 17-member council assists the commissioner of Human Services in formulating policies and procedures relating to Indian child welfare services. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 260.835)

OMBUDSPERSON FOR INDIAN FAMILIES

1450 Energy Park Dr., Ste 106, St. Paul 55108

Phone: (651) 643-2523

Law provides: The ombudsperson shall monitor agency compliance with all laws governing child protection and placement, as they impact Indian children through work with the courts, court officials, policy makers, service providers, social workers, and guardians ad litem. The ombudsperson has the authority to investigate decisions or acts, and other matters of an agency, program or facility via complaints, systems and personnel, or upon personal initiative. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 257.0755)

URBAN INDIAN AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

113 N.W. 2nd St., Bemidji 56601

Phone: (215) 755-3825

Law provides: The council consisting of six Indians enrolled in Minnesota-based tribes and at least one member shall reside in the vicinity of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bemidji or Duluth, advises the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council board of directors on the concerns of Minnesota Indians who reside in the urban areas of the state. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 3.922, Subd. 8)