

2009 State-Tribal Leaders Summit Planning

On February 6, 2009, prior to enactment of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, Governor Bill Richardson met with tribal leaders during the legislative Indian Day events and committed to holding a State-Tribal Leaders Summit. At this meeting, the tribal leaders directed the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) to work with a Planning Committee for the Summit, which was made up of the following tribal leaders:

- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Chairman Governor Mark Mitchell;
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Vice-Chairman Governor Walter Dasheno;
- Jicarilla Apache Nation President Levi Pesata;
- Mescalero Apache Tribe President Carleton Naiche-Palmer;
- Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley;
- Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence Morgan;
- Pueblo of Zuni Governor Norman Coeoyate;
- Southern Pueblos Governors Council Chairman Governor Chandler Sanchez; and
- Southern Pueblos Governors Council Vice-Chairman Governor Ivan Pino.

Because of the government-to-government nature of the Summit between Governor Richardson and the leaders of the 22 tribes, nations and pueblos, IAD worked directly with this Planning Committee to prepare for the Summit and served as a facilitator and recorder. IAD has also coordinated with the Governor's Office and with particular cabinet secretaries and agency staff, as appropriate.

The Planning Committee met five times to craft the Summit agenda, issues to be discussed, participants, location and logistics. At the Planning Committee's direction, IAD sent a survey to the leadership of all 22 tribes, nations and pueblos on March 16, 2009. Based on the tribal leaders' response to this survey, the Planning Committee decided to focus on the following broad topics at the Summit: Tribal Economic Development, Tribal Infrastructure, Indian Healthcare, and Indian Education. In this survey, the tribal leaders also identified May 4-5, 2009, as the best date for the Summit and Pre-Summit Meeting.

The Planning Committee then directed IAD to send out a second survey to all of the tribal leadership on March 30, 2009, to give them an opportunity to identify more specific issues within these broad topics as well as proposed solutions to be discussed at the Summit. The Planning Committee reviewed all the responses and, in a seven hour meeting on April 8, identified three specific issues and solutions under each of the four topic areas. "Issue Papers" describing these proposed issues and solutions were been created by the IAD Policy Unit and were then provided to the Planning Committee and the leadership of all 22 tribes, nations and pueblos for final review. Also based on responses in the second survey, the Planning Committee selected the Pueblo of Acoma to host this year's Summit in response to the generous offer by Governor Chandler Sanchez.

The Planning Committee decided that the Summit would not be open to the public or media. They limited the Summit participants to the leaders of the 22 tribes, nations and pueblos and Governor Richardson as well as a certain number of their invited representatives, agency heads,

and staff. They also decided that the May 4, 2009 Pre-Summit Meeting would be limited to the two leaders from each of the 22 tribes, nations and pueblos who would be designated to represent their respective tribes' interests at the Summit.

Concurrent with this process, the Governor Bill Richardson's Office added a fifth topic to the Summit agenda: DWI Coordination. Once the five topics and specific issues were identified, IAD shared the draft Issue Papers with cabinet secretaries and tribal liaisons from agencies directly responsible for those topics and coordinated with them to create responses for Governor Richardson to consider in addressing these specific issues at the Summit. For the Summit on May 5, the Governor's Office made the determination as to which agencies would be required to attend the Summit to address the pre-selected main issues and solutions.