

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.

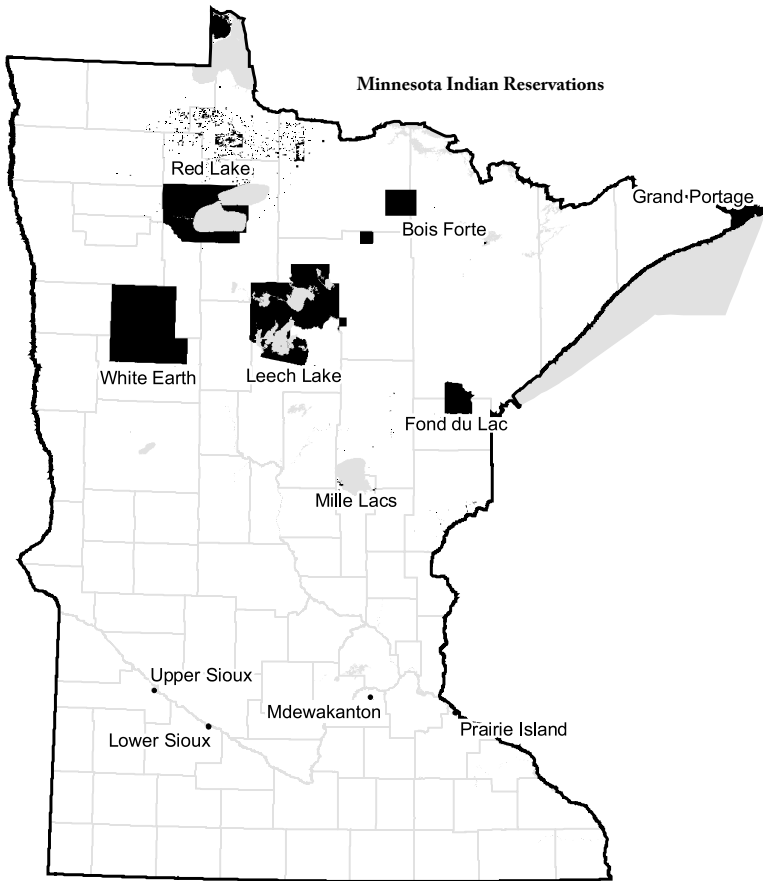
Federally recognized tribes possess certain inherent rights of self-government and entitlement to certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of the special trust relationship.

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.



Bois Forte Band of Chippewa-Nett Lake
Tribal Chair: Cathy Chavers
5344 Lakeshore Dr., Nett Lake 55772
Phone: (800) 221-8129 **Fax:** (218) 757-3312
Email: cchavers@boisforte-nsn.gov
Website: boisforte.com



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



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



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Chairman: Faron Jackson, Sr.
190 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake 56633
Phone: (218) 335-8200 **Fax:** (218) 335-8309
Website: llojibwe.org



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



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



Prairie Island Indian Community
Tribal President: Shelley Buck
5636 Sturgeon Lake Rd., Welch 55089
Phone: (800) 554-5473 **Fax:** (651) 385-4180
Website: prairieisland.org



Red Lake Band of Ojibwe
Tribal Chair: Darrell G. Seki, Sr.
Box 550, Red Lake 56671
Phone: (218) 679-1889 **Fax:** (218) 679-3378
Website: redlakenation.org



Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community
Tribal Chair: Charlie Vig
2330 Sioux Tr. N.W., Prior Lake 55372
Phone: (952) 445-8900
Website: shakopeedakota.org



Upper Sioux Community Pezihutazizi Oyate

Tribal Chair: Kevin Jensvold
Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane, Granite Falls 56241
Phone: (320) 564-3853
Website: upper Sioux community-nsn.gov



White Earth Band of Ojibwe

Tribal Chair: Terrence Tibbetts
Box 418, White Earth 56591
Phone: (218) 983-3285
Website: whiteearth.com

STATE TRIBAL-RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN INDIAN ADVISORY COUNCILS

Minnesota Department of Human Services, 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 55164

Chemical Dependency

Phone: (651) 431-2460 Email: donald.w.moore@state.mn.us

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)

Child Welfare

Phone: (651) 431-4675 Email: kris.johnson@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)

Mental Health

Phone: (651) 431-3068

Law provides: The 15-member council assists the commissioner of Human Services in formulating policies and procedures relating to American Indian mental health services and programs.. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 260.835)

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: mn.gov/indianaffairs

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: Dennis Olson, Jr.

URBAN INDIAN ADVISORY BOARD

161 St Anthony Ave; Ste 919, St Paul, 55103

Phone: (218) 205-4752 Email: melanie.franks@state.mn.us

Law provides: The council advises the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council board of directors on the concerns of Minnesota Indians who reside in the urban areas of the state. The council must be appointed by the board and consists of six Indians residing in the vicinity of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Bemidji. At least one member of the council must be a resident of each city. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 3.922, Subd. 8.)

Chair: Karen Bedeau

OMBUDSPERSON FOR INDIAN FAMILIES

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

Phone: (651) 643-2523 Email: Jill.Esch@state.mn.us

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. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 257.0755)

Ombudsperson: Jill Kehaulani Esch, Esq.