

LS Members:

I've been asked to give an update on what's been happening with the Tribe for those of you that were not able to attend the quarterly meeting....

1. Federal Recognition- We met with Asst. Secretary Kevin Washburn and asked him what would be the best next steps for the Little Shell Tribe in terms of moving our recognition forward, he told us to provide him with more info on the 3 areas in which we were sited as lacking information on. So with that we have NARF, who is working with 6 people, working on a response to Mr. Washburn, they are hoping to get him a response by Sept. 29th.

2. We are still trying to obtain funding for the travertine quarry; we have a lot of different options we are exploring. Still looking at a start date of this fall.

3. The language program contract was just signed today, the program will now move forward with the state approved plan.

4. The council is working with Nicholas Vrooman on a Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana Indigenous Hunting & Fishing Rights w/in the State of Montana. We first need to set up some meetings with other Tribes and get their thoughts; we will then present this to the Governor of Montana. We hope to accomplish this in the next couple of months.

5. Donna Woodard and Troy Woodard have been working very hard at reviewing and making suggested changes to the Tribes constitution, as of now the current constitution gives up our sovereignty to the Federal Government, which we would never want to do. So in the next month we will be posting the constitution with the suggested changes, you as members will need to vote on whether you accept the proposed changes or not. Please keep a watch out for this in the next month.

6. The Pembina settlement is now in the hands of the Judge with the court of claims, he will either accept the agreed terms or reject them. We will keep you posted once we hear from NARF on this.

The only other things happening are daily enrollments, the tobacco and wellness programs and the up coming pow wow.

If you have ANY questions please feel free to email me... ggray@gng.net

Thanks
Gerald