

2008 ANNUAL SELF-GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE
20th Anniversary of Tribal Self-Governance: Celebrating Excellence
Riviera Hotel & Casino; Las Vegas, Nevada
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

BREAKOUT SESSION 4:
SELF-GOVERNANCE – VISIONING OF THE FUTURE

This session includes remembering the past, before contact, as a time when every need was met. The reality of the present will be unflinchingly represented through the experiences of our people. Finally, a vision of the future health and human services that corrects the deficiencies of the present and preserves the values of pre-contact times for the benefit of our children born today and as yet unborn.

Moderator: Henry M. Cagey, Chairman, Lummi Indian Nation

Recorder: Phyllis Wolfe, Director, Office of Urban Indian Health Programs, IHS

Panelists:

- William E. Jones, Sr., Lummi Indian Nation, Coast Salish Elder
- Jerry Folsom, Self-Governance Coordinator, Lummi Indian Nation
- Dennis Smith, Council Member Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe

Visioning the future of Self-Governance is a holistic process consisting of four circles:

1. Self-Governance Pre-Contact – a time when Indian Tribes were able to feed, clothe, house, protect family, nurture children and learn from Elders.
2. Self-Governance Past (Healing Circle) – a time when feelings are not good – confused, sick, hopeless, angry, poverty, shame, vengeful, frustrated, distrust, and lack of confidence.
3. Self-Governance Now – characteristics include outside control, internal confusion, sense of worthlessness, material values, and disregard for spirituality but there is hope for a better future.
4. Ideal Vision – the Next 20 Years - is like the first circle, the Self-Governance Pre-contact circle. Characteristics include safe, secure, happy, government-to-government relationship.

Achieving the Ideal Vision consists of activities, e.g., brain storm ideas; identify values, goals, and dreams. Work together with all our heart and spirit and have faith. Reach out to our brothers and sisters including our elders, youth, tribal members and former Tribal Council members so that Indian Tribes will once again be able to feed, clothe, house, protect family, nurture children and learn from Elders.

Members of this session identified their Self-Governance goals for the next 20 years.

**Self-Governance and the Next 20 Years
The Breakout Session's Goals**

Involve Elders and Youth

Young People

- **Address the gap between Elders and Youth**
- **Develop a Succession Plan**
- **Mentor the Youth**
 - **Youth can help Congress run the Country**
 - **Be Aggressive**
 - **Learn about the other side**

Build Tribal regulatory authority

The Federal Government will develop and implement a uniform Tribal Consultation Policy

AI/AN will sit on the President's Councils

Develop one Funding Agreement for the DOI and the IHS that includes:

- **A stable base budget**
- **Adjustment for inflation**
- **Covers all Contract Support Cost needs**

Funding should be non-discretionary

Indian Country:

- **Develop a unified voice**
- **Share resources in Indian Country**

Improve Self-esteem

Utilize advice of Elders and former Council Members.

Have a comprehensive health care system

In the next 2-3 years, develop and implement a Self-Governance Mentoring Program

Ensure that statutory language is not changed by regulations developed to implement the program

Tribal organizations will enact Environmental laws

Education: Health Care, Nutrition, Take Care of the Environment

Send appropriated dollars directly to the Tribes

Hold an Elders and Youth Self-Governance Conference – Elders teach Youth about history and traditions of Self-Governance

Establish Health In-patient Clinics for Diabetes, Diet, Exercise (OK example)