



State-Tribal Relations Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JONATHAN WINDY BOY--Chair
SHANNON AUGARE
JIM PETERSON
BRUCE TUTVEDT

HOUSE MEMBERS

ALAN DOANE--Vice Chair
CLARENA BROCKIE
FORRESTINA (FROSTY) CALF BOSS RIBS
NICHOLAS SCHWADERER

COMMITTEE STAFF

CASEY BARRS, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 23, 2014
State Capitol, Rm 102
Helena, MT

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*. Once on the page for *Interim Committees*, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written minutes summary, along with the audio and video recordings, are listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page.

Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. JONATHAN WINDY BOY, Chair
REP. NICHOLAS SCHWADERER

STAFF PRESENT

CASEY BARRS, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary
K'LYNN SLOAN HARRIS, Audio/Video Coordinator

AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, [Attachment #1](#).
Visitors' list, [Attachment #2](#).
Roll Call, [Attachment #3](#) and [Attachment #4](#)

CALL TO ORDER

00:00:01 SEN. WINDY BOY called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

00:00:39 **Mr. Casey Barrs**, Legislative Researcher, gave a brief explanation about the informal status of the meeting.

STATUS OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOLS

00:01:31 Mr. Barrs

Committee Questions and Comments

00:12:17 REP. SCHWADERER

00:13:31 Mr. Barrs

00:14:12 REP. SCHWADERER

00:14:37 SEN. WINDY BOY

MECHANISM FOR CREATING A CHARTER SCHOOL

00:16:35 **Dennis Parman**, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction
Montana Code Annotated 20-6-104 (EXHIBIT 1)
Administrative Rules of Montana 10.55.604 (EXHIBIT 2)

Committee Questions and Comments

00:33:28 REP. SCHWADERER

00:35:41 Mr. Parman

00:39:33 SEN. WINDY BOY

00:39:44 Mr. Barrs

00:41:18 Mr. Parman

00:43:32 SEN. WINDY BOY

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - WORK IN INDIAN COUNTRY

00:44:58 **Jason Smith**, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Committee Questions and Comments

00:57:48 REP. SCHWADERER

00:59:28 Mr. Smith

01:00:28 REP. SCHWADERER

01:00:54 SEN. WINDY BOY

SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

01:06:20 Mr. Barrs
House Bill 378 (2005) (EXHIBIT 3)
Senate Bill 334 (2007) (EXHIBIT 4)
House Bill 605 (2009) (EXHIBIT 5)
Senate Joint Resolution No. 18 (2007) (EXHIBIT 6)

Committee Questions and Comments

01:11:44 SEN. WINDY BOY
01:12:03 Mr. Barrs
01:12:30 SEN. WINDY BOY

Public Comment

01:13:28 None.

01:13:58 BRIEF RECESS

01:38:25 SEN. WINDY BOY called the meeting back to order.

BLACKFOOT AND BUFFALO: PANEL ON THE INNII INITIATIVE

01:39:57 **Introductions**

Ervin Carlson, President, Intertribal Buffalo Council
Keith Aune, Senior Conservation Scientist, American Bison Society, Wildlife Conservation Society
Blair First Rider, Aboriginal Heritage Advisor
Kathleen Jackson, Innii Initiative
Paulette Fox, MSc, Associate, Harmony Walkers

Panel Discussion

01:45:42 Mr. Carlson

01:48:46 Ms. Fox

Innii Initiative Brochure (**EXHIBIT 7**)

01:54:15 Mr. Carlson

Tribal DVD (**EXHIBIT 8**)

Briefing Note (**EXHIBIT 9**)

01:56:35 SEN. WINDY BOY

01:57:38 Mr. Aune

02:10:04 Ms. Fox

02:11:02 Mr. First Rider

02:14:58 Ms. Jackson

02:18:11 SEN. WINDY BOY

02:18:25 Ms. Fox

02:19:04 Mr. Carlson

02:20:13 *Innii Video Presentation* (**EXHIBIT 10**)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=6LJfPMoGMAg&feature=youtu.be>

02:29:56 Ms. Fox

Committee Questions and Comments

02:30:08 REP. SCHWADERER

02:33:01 SEN. WINDY BOY

02:38:45 Mr. Barrs

02:39:57 SEN. WINDY BOY
02:40:39 Mr. Barrs
02:41:47 Mr. Carlson
02:42:01 Mr. Aune
02:45:13 Mr. Barrs
02:46:29 SEN. WINDY - Mr. Aune
02:49:48 Mr. Fox
02:50:58 Mr. Carlson
02:52:31 Blackfeet Tribal Member Song Presentation

Public Comment

02:55:35 None.

WRAP UP

02:55:54 SEN. WINDY BOY
03:00:01 REP. SCHWADERER
03:04:46 Mr. Barrs
03:05:16 SEN. WINDY BOY - Mr. Barrs
03:08:32 REP. SCHWADERER

ADJOURN

03:09:23 SEN. WINDY BOY adjourned the meeting at 4:23p.m.

July 24, 2014

**Meeting of The State Tribal Relations Committee
& The Little Shell Tribal Council**

LITTLE SHELL TRIBAL COUNCIL PORTION OF AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. JIM PETERSON
REP. NICHOLAS SCHWADERER

STAFF PRESENT

CASEY BARRS, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary
K'LYNN SLOAN HARRIS, Audio/Video Coordinator

AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, Attachment #1.
Visitors' list, Attachment #2.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

00:00:02 **Ms. Leona Kienenberger**, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Little Shell Tribal Council

OPENING BLESSING

00:01:30 **Richard Parenteau**, Council Member, Little Shell Tribal Council

UPDATE ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION

00:05:04 Ms. Kienenberger

Council Comment

00:06:39 **Colleen Hil**, Tribal Council Member

LEGAL MEANING OF PHRASE "STATE-RECOGNIZED"

00:06:58 **Ms. Laura Sankey**, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Council Comment

00:09:45 Ms. Hill

00:10:15 Ms. Sankey

Public Comment

00:10:31 **Nicholas Vrooman**, Little Shell Tribal Member

00:12:17 Ms. Sankey

00:12:37 **Casey Barrs**, Staff Researcher, Legislative Services Division

00:13:53 Ms. Kienenberger

00:14:37 Mr. Barrs

00:14:55 **Melissa Schlichting**, Attorney General's Office

00:17:28 SEN. PETERSON - Ms. Schlichting

00:21:48 **Darrel Rummell**, Little Shell Language Program - Ms. Schlichting

00:22:41 Ms. Hill

00:22:59 Ms. Schlichting

00:25:07 REP. SCHWADERER

OFFENSIVE TERMINOLOGY IN MONTANA SIGNAGE AND GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

00:26:32 **Nicholas Vrooman**, Assistant Director, Little Shell Language Preservation Pilot Documents ([EXHIBIT 1](#))

Committee Questions

00:36:11 REP. SCHWADERER

00:36:48 Mr. Vrooman

00:37:36 Mr. Barrs - Mr. Vrooman

00:41:24 Ms. Kienenberger

00:41:44 Mr. Vrooman

00:43:39 Mr. Barrs

00:44:30 Mr. Vrooman

LITTLE SHELL - LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PILOT PROGRAM

00:44:55 **Gerald Gray Sr.**, Little Shell Native Language Program
01:00:12 **Kim McKeehan**, Little Shell Tribal Member, Little Shell Language Preservation
01:01:24 Mr. Gray
01:07:40 Mr. Vrooman
01:11:17 Ms. Kienenberger
01:12:54 Mr. Gray

Questions and Comments

01:17:52 REP. SCHWADERER
01:20:31 Ms. Kienenberger
01:20:43 Ms. Hill
01:21:54 Ms. Kienenberger
01:23:04 Mr. Barrs
01:24:39 Ms. Rummel
01:25:35 Mr. Vrooman - Mr. Barrs

01:29:14 Brief Recess

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE PORTION

01:47:39 SEN. PETERSON presented a gift to the Little Shell Tribe on behalf of the State Tribal Relations Committee.

01:52:39 Mr. Barrs presented clarification regarding the appropriation awarded to the tribes for language preservation.

Questions and Comments

01:54:41 Ms. Kienenberger
01:55:00 Mr. Barrs

LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PILOT PROGRAM

01:56:23 Mr. Casey Barrs, presented information on statewide language preservation.

Committee Questions and Comments

01:58:19 SEN. PETERSON
02:00:32 Mr. Vrooman
02:01:01 Mr. Barrs
02:02:49 Ms. Hill
02:03:11 Ms. Sankey
02:04:39 SEN. PETERSON
02:06:43 Ms. Hill
02:07:17 Mr. Barrs

LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND THE (FEDERAL) DRAFT NATIVE LANGUAGE

IMMERSION STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACT

02:10:47 **Laura Sankey**, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division
Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act - Highlights (EXHIBIT 2)
Tester's Bill - S.1948 (EXHIBIT 3)

Comments and Questions

02:16:19 Mr. Barrs
02:20:17 Ms. Kienenberger
02:20:41 Mr. Barrs
02:20:56 Mr. Gray
02:23:20 SEN. PETERSON
02:25:34 Mr. Barrs
02:26:04 Mr. Vrooman

INDIAN INCARCERATION

02:28:29 **Mr. Casey Barrs**, Staff Researcher, Legislative Services Division

Committee Comments and Questions

02:33:16 Mr. Vrooman
02:34:20 SEN. PETERSON
02:35:22 REP. SCHWADERER
02:38:52 Ms. Kienenberger
02:39:03 REP. SCHWADERER
02:39:25 Mr. Barrs

02:44:04 Adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting at Crossroads Correctional Center

July 24, 2014

50 Crossroads Drive, Shelby MT

00:00:02 **Introductions**

SEN. PETERSON
REP. SCHWADERER
Vance Laughlin, Warden
Kari Kinyon, Quality Assurance Manager
Andrea Evans, Director of Partnership Development
Harlen Tromley, Department of Corrections
Doug Fender, Associate Warden

00:04:30 SEN. PETERSON provided a brief explanation of the reasoning for holding a discussion at Crossroads, regarding Indian incarceration.

DISCUSSION WITH CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL

- 00:06:32 The panel began by discussing the cultural training that is offered to staff currently, and would be offered in the future. Mr. Tromley ensured the committee that he would be involved in the training of all corrections staff, including staff at contracted agencies, such as Crossroads. He also stated that he is in the process of putting together a work group to discuss the possibility of allowing for native languages to be spoke at correctional facilities.
- 00:13:53 The panel discussed educational and cultural opportunities offered to inmates. The staff explained the number of participants and the percentage of inmates that not only attend class for wages, but participate in other jobs offered to them at the facility and within the community.
- 00:17:13 The committee were assured by the Crossroads staff that there have not been any instances where native languages have become a security concern. They also commented on the training's that are available for such occasions, and the language line that is available at any time to address language barrier concerns. They stated that there are a small number of inmates that are fluent in their native language, lessening the likelihood of an issue arising. The group discussed the possibility of offering language courses to the inmates.
- 00:21:12 The group discussed the structure of the sweat program offered to inmates. The personnel provided the committee with information about the frequency, different tribal members participating, staff interest and the process in which they are performed, and also the importance of the inmates participation in the sweats to maintain a calm environment in the facility. They also discussed the issues they have encountered in trying to find volunteers from the different tribes to conduct the sweats, in order to introduce the differences in the tribal cultures.
- 00:32:30 The committee spoke about the percentage of different ethnic groups that are currently incarcerated at Crossroads. They also discussed the amount of volunteers that come to the facility to partake in all programs offered to the inmates. They again spoke of the difficulties in finding volunteers for cultural education.

Public Comment

- 00:36:35 None.
- 00:36:25 The committee adjourned the meeting to partake in a tour of Crossroads facility.