



# North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT  
CONFERENCE AGENDA

June 3 - 4, 2026 | Bismarck Event Center  
Arnold Williams, Emcee | Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

## DAY 1 WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

8:30 -  
9:30am

### Registration & Breakfast

9:30 -  
10:30am

### Opening Ceremony

Invocation: Kory Annis - CRST



- Welcome & Invocation
- Color Guard
- Governor Armstrong's Welcome & Remarks
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Drum Group

10:30 -  
11:30am

### Opening Keynote



*Billy Kirkland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs*

11:30 -  
12:20pm

### Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation (MHA)



#### Chairman Mark Fox

Chairman Mark Fox has served as Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation since 2014 and is currently serving his third term. He is nationally recognized for his leadership in tribal sovereignty, energy, economic development, and tribal governance.

12:20 -  
1:20pm

### Lunch Break - Dancers

1:20 -  
2:10pm

### Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa



#### Chairman Jamie Azure

Chairman Jamie Azure has served as Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa since 2018 and has served on the Tribal Council since 2016. Chairman Jamie Azure has boosted Native solidarity, economic development, and youth and elder advocacy.

2:10 -  
2:30pm

### Afternoon Break

2:30 -  
3:20pm

**Spirit Lake Nation**



**Vice Chairman Darren Walking Eagle**

*Vice Chairman Darren Walking Eagle serves as the Crow Hill District Representative. He is actively involved in local governance and community infrastructure advocacy.*

3:20 -  
4:00pm

**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate**



**Chairman J. Garrett Renville**

*Chairman J. Garrett Renville was elected Chairman of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate in 2022. His leadership highlights unity, open dialogue, and improving conditions for tribal members and future generations.*

4:00 -  
4:50pm

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**



**Chairman Steve Sitting Bear**

*Chairman Steve Sitting Bear has served as the Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe since 2025. He is recognized for his leadership in tribal-state relations, community development, cultural restoration, and advancing self-determination.*

4:50pm

**Adjourn Day 1**

**OUR SPONSORS:**



DAY 2

THURSDAY JUNE 4

8:30 -  
9:30am

**Breakfast & Networking**

9:30 -  
10:30am

**Rural Health Transformation Grant**

10:30 -  
11:20am

**Breakout Sessions - Round 1**

ROOM	SESSION
Room 101	<b>Strengthening Relationships: The NDSP Cultural Liaison Program</b> <i>Trp. Shane Rothenberger, ND Highway Patrol</i>
Room 102	<b>Urban Tribal Housing: Protecting Tribal Citizens</b> <i>Cheryl Ann Kary, Sacred Pipe Resource Center</i>
Room 103	<b>Education &amp; Youth Engagement Bismarck Public Schools</b> <i>Tomi Cimarosti, Donovan Lambert, Bismarck Public Schools</i>
Room 104	<b>Akinsi Warrior Lodge</b> <i>Curtis Heidebrink, F5 Project</i>
Room 105	<b>Strengthening Partnerships Through Trust: UND Tribal Consultation Policy</b> <i>Dr. David Wilson, Associate Vice President for Health Research &amp; Chair of Indigenous Health</i> <i>Laine Lyons, Director of Development UND Alumni Association and Foundation</i>

11:40 -  
12:30pm

**Breakout Sessions - Round 2**  
(Repeat Round 1 - Choose new session)

12:30 -  
1:25pm

**Lunch Break**



1:25 -  
2:10pm

**Breakout Sessions - Round 3**

ROOM	SESSION
Room 101	<b>Native Governance Center</b> <i>Michaela Madrid, Native Governance Center</i>
Room 102	<b>AIPHRC - Food Sovereignty</b> <i>American Indian Public Health Resource Center Team</i>
Room 103	<b>Plains Art Museum</b> <i>Erin Shapiro, Plains Art Museum</i>
Room 104	<b>ND Native Vote</b> <i>Kendyl Harrison, ND Native Vote</i>
Room 105	<b>ND Child &amp; Family Services</b> <i>Janakate Walker, Anthony Esquibel, Kelsey Bless</i>

2:10 -  
2:20pm

**Break**

2:20 -  
3:05pm

**Breakout Sessions - Round 4**  
(Repeat Round 1 - Choose new session)

3:05 -  
4:00pm

**Closing Plenary & Commission Updates**



- ND Indian Affairs Commission updates
- Closing remarks

3:05 -  
4:00pm

**Conference Adjourns**

**OUR PARTNERS:**

