

# Family of Nations Inter-tribal Wellness Coalition™ 501(C)3, 508, 509,.

— Office of the InterTribal Trustee —



Dec.3.2023

**Office of the Trust %:** Inter-Tribal Wellness Coalition, Inc.

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**Council of Tribal Elders of the Inter-Tribal Council of American Tribes  
Family of Nations Inter-tribal Circuit Court Systems Clerk of Court % Office of the  
Trustee**







## Overview

Inherently the Authority In the Family of Nations™ resides in the Sovereign embodiment of Divine Law, Law of Nations and Common Law.

As Ordained by the Great Spirit, appointed by the Blood and Tears of the Ancestors, consecrated by the Sacred Fires, anointed in Posterity under International Treaty & implemented under Trust Law, by Postliminium, in accordance with AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16) AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, the Jay Treaty Article III, International Law and Policy including Federal Title 25 USC Self-Determination Clauses Sec. 1301(2000) and the Indian Tribal Justice Act pursuant to Title 25 U.S.C. Sec. 6301-6631 ....**We the People *Femme Couleur Libre***.

## Corporate Intelligence Report

The key factors to consider when trying to determine the best structure for a particular activity are:

**Segregated politics from business**





- Which frees the tribal council from micromanaging tribal businesses, while allowing the council to focus on long-term development strategies and goals.
- This assigns responsibility to operate and manage tribal businesses to those who have business skill and knowledge.

### Organizational considerations

- How the entity is formed, under what law is the entity formed, and who manages the entity.

### Sovereign Immunity

Tribes as governmental entities are not subject to lawsuits, unless they clearly waive nation-state immunity or the US Congress has waived their immunity.

This raises additional questions regarding the ability of financial institutions and private lenders, investors and business partners to enforce agreements and to protect their commercial investments.

Furthermore, each tribal entity has different sovereign immunity protections as well as implications that must be considered, such as operating systems and procedures for the settlement of disputes.

### Corporate Liability

Some business structures effectively shield business owners from liability for the financial obligations and debts of the business, whereas others do not effectively separate owner obligations from business entity obligations.

Tax considerations under IRS 162A and 509, 508, 503, et al, PMA-Research Stations.

There are several different federal income tax rules that may apply to different business types, namely, State tax liability. This frequently depends on whether the business activity is conducted on or off an Indian reservation, under Corporate Resolutions.

### Private PMA Enrollment v. Public Financing

Initial starting capital and private money for a business comes in two forms:

- (1) Debt--whereby the business borrows and then owes money to others; and
- (2) Equity--where investors provide funding and then own part of the business.

**Most Lenders generally do not dictate choice of business entity, but equity investors may specify what business structure you can choose.**





## Tribal Enterprises General Overview

Tribal governments are separate and distinct political entities in our Federal system of government, specifically tribal owned enterprises have the power of self-government and exercise sovereignty over their members and territory.

While their inherent sovereignty pre-dates the US Constitution and is derived from the underlying fact that they owned all the land that is now the United States.

The U.S. Constitution acknowledges the Sovereign Tenth Amendment status of Indian tribes in the Treaty Clause, in the 14th Amendment as "Indians not taxed", and in the commerce Clause. Tax Non Obligated, et al.

The sovereign nature of most Tribes has been recognized in the Constitutions of the Several States, via treaties, court decisions, and the course of customary dealings with tribes.

***As sovereign Nations, Indian tribes have powers and capabilities not available to individuals.***

***When developing a new tribal enterprise, an important consideration is the applicable laws and regulations governing its formation and operation.***

***In Indian countries, business entities can be formed under tribal law, state law or federal law. Your choice of law and the entity that is chosen will have consequences on issues relating to tax, financing, and sovereign immunity.***

It will also determine how you can maximize risks and liability.

***An important consideration for tribes is how to preserve tribal control and to protect tribal assets while providing a business partner or lender with certainty.***

A tribe, because it is a sovereign nation, can form a governmental entity to perform business functions.

***This entity can be an instrumentality of tribal government, a political subdivision of the tribe, or an agency or division of the tribe.***

***A tribe can also form a separate business entity formed under federal, tribal, or state law.***

### Tribal Government

Many tribes conduct business through an economic development arm of the tribe.





**This is often referred to as an unincorporated instrumentality of the tribe. Private Membership Association.**

The Primary business operation is generally overseen by the Dynamic governing body of the tribe; sometimes **by a business committee or a separate board**, but they generally do not have a separate legal structure.

**Therefore, the same privileges and immunities of the tribe can apply to contractual agreements entered into by the tribe and to business instrumentalities of the tribe.**

Tribes and its business instrumentalities organized as an arm of the tribal government are not taxable entities for purposes of federal income tax.

### Success Factors for Implementation

When choosing a business structure, there are many things a tribe should consider regarding business issues and tribal governmental issues. One of the key factors is how to preserve tribal control while also insulating business decisions from tribal governmental decisions or tribal politics.

Another critical factor for tribes is how to preserve tribal assets and limit exposure to business liabilities.

Other factors are, how to effectively manage the entity; how to maximize tax benefits; how to minimize financial risks; the location of business operations on or off the reservation; what assets will be pledged; how the business will be capitalized; which structure enables the preferred method of equity or debt financing; and the requirements of one's business partner or lender.

### Benefits of ***Unincorporated Agencies***, Divisions and Instrumentalities

Tribes are self-governing sovereigns with traditions of self-government that predate the Constitution.

**Accordingly, Tribal governments do not derive their powers or sovereignty from the United States.**

The **Inherent sovereignty of tribes is recognized in the Commerce Clause and Treaty Clause of the U.S. Constitution.**

Commonly Tribes, generally exercise powers of **self-government that are derived from their status as separate and distinct sovereigns.**

**State-recognized Tribes exercise inherent rights of self-government including the power to engage in business and commercial activities.**





Many other treaty tribes operate under traditional forms of government, or by adopting constitutions or codes under tribal law allowing them the power to engage in business and commercial activities.

*Thus, in addition, in 1934, Congress enacted the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to encourage economic and political self-determination by permitting tribes to organize their tribal governments under constitutions adopted pursuant to Section 16 of the IRA.*

Tribes had the option to accept or reject the IRA.

***Our Enrolled and Affiliated Tribes that chose to organize their government's under Section 16 of the IRA adopted a Tribal Constitution that was reviewed and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Alaska and Oklahoma tribes were originally excluded from the IRA, but the provisions were later extended to Alaska Natives and similar provisions were extended to some Oklahoma tribes.***

Specifically **Tribal Constitutions** adopted under ***Section 16 of the IRA typically established a system of centralized government with a chief executive, usually a Tribal Chairman or President, a legislature, usually a Tribal Council, a Tribal Business Committee, or Board of Directors that was vested with legislative and executive powers, and a weak judiciary.***

However, most Tribal governments often directly control or participate in business activities through unincorporated instrumentalities of the tribe. These are often referred to as an Economic arm of the tribe.

These specialized instrumentalities or arms of tribal government are not considered to be distinct legal entities. Examples are tribal casinos, tribal enterprises, and tribal utilities, Eco Sustainable Farms, and Other Entities.

### Tribal Organizational Characteristics and Alternative Entity Formation

Unincorporated instrumentalities of a tribal government are formed under tribal law for commercial purposes and share the same legal characteristics of the tribal government because they are not separate legal entities.

A tribe's constitution and II-2 by-laws or codes may provide tribal governments with the power to create and operate subordinate economic entities. These entities are generally established by tribal resolution or by tribal ordinance.

### Management





These entities are usually directly controlled by the tribal government and its tribal council to serve as the development arm of the tribe.

Sometimes a tribal enterprise may have a board of directors, it is usually comprised of tribal council members. An unincorporated instrumentality often has a manager in charge of its day-to-day operations.

### General Characteristics

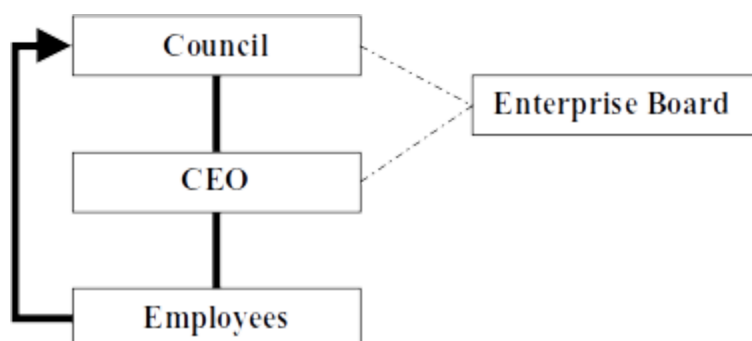
Tribes have operated ski resorts, farming ventures, cigarette sales and gaming through unincorporated tribal entities. There is no separation of the business entity from the tribal government body and such enterprises do not hold assets or property separately from the tribe.

Land and assets used by the unincorporated enterprise are held by the tribal political body and are not specifically conveyed or set aside.

In some instances, there are no separate bank accounts, separate directors, or assets. The enterprise is wholly-owned by the tribe. The tribal council is typically involved in day-to-day management decisions either directly or indirectly. For example, the Navajo Nation formed the Navajo Forest Products Industries (NFPI) which is wholly-owned and operated by the tribe on the Navajo Reservation.

NFPI is an instrumentality or arm of the tribal government. The enterprise manufactures wood products. NFPI conducts day-to-day operations and is supervised by a general manager who is appointed and responsible to a nine-member management board. The board is appointed by the Navajo Tribe's advisory committee which is ultimately responsible for the operation of the business enterprise. The advisory committee is comprised of the Navajo Tribal Council.

### *The Tribal Instrumentality Model*



- The Council sits on the Enterprise Board and is involved in day to day management of the business.





- The board (if it exists) advises the Council and the CEO about strategy but generally has no power to act on important corporate policy issues.

### Sovereign Immunity and Liability Issues Sovereign Immunity

As a matter of federal law, judicial relief to enforce contracts or agreements against an Indian tribe in state or federal court is permitted only where Congress has authorized the suit or the tribe has waived its immunity.

Sovereign immunity protects the limited and irreplaceable tribal resources from large judgments and safeguards tribal self-governance.

The doctrine of sovereign immunity recognizes that a tribe's sovereign status is directly related to its ability to generate revenues through the regulation of commercial activities on the reservation.

The ability to contract, impacts a tribe's fiscal resources by binding or obligating the funds and assets of the tribe. Therefore, courts have found that corporate contractual provisions are economic matters that directly affect a tribe's right to self-government.

From this perspective, a tribal business entity under certain circumstances can be determined to be a tribe's alter ego and share the same attributes of tribal sovereignty as the tribe such as sovereign immunity from suit in order to protect tribal assets and property. Indian tribes possess the common-law sovereign immunity from suits similar to that enjoyed by other sovereigns.

Tribal enterprises which serve as subordinate economic tribal entities created by an Indian tribe, possess attributes of sovereignty such as sovereign immunity. Consequently, they cannot be sued without a clear waiver of sovereign immunity. Indian tribes are generally immune from suits on contracts that involve governmental or commercial activities on or off a reservation.

A business entity that is an instrumentality or arm of the tribe or an unincorporated entity of a tribe can share the same attributes of the tribe including sovereign immunity from suit.

When a tribe establishes an entity to conduct certain activities, the entity is immune from suit if it is functioning as an arm of the tribe such that its activities are appropriately deemed to be those of the tribe.

Courts have rejected attempts to limit sovereign immunity to the governmental activities of a tribe and have found tribes to be immune from suit for business activities if operating as an arm of the tribe.

A tribal instrumentality or unincorporated enterprise of a tribal government, however, can not unilaterally act to waive tribal sovereign immunity except in accordance with tribal law.





Tribal commercial enterprises cover a broad range of activities that include gaming, smoke shops, convenient stores, business parks and other enterprises. Many courts have found that subordinate economic entities of the tribe created for commercial purposes share the same immunity as the tribe itself.

Tribal sovereign immunity can create uncertainty and risks for would-be investors or business partners. For instance, agreements may not be enforceable where one party (e.g., a tribe or tribal entity) is immune from suit.

In many disputes regarding tribal commercial activities, an issue is raised regarding whether a tribe has waived sovereign immunity. An Indian tribe cannot be sued unless there is a clear waiver of sovereign immunity by the tribe itself or a clear abrogation of immunity by an Act of Congress. A tribe may waive immunity by contract or agreement, by tribal ordinance, by resolution, or by its corporate charter.

Such waiver must be in accordance with valid tribal law, such as a constitution, bylaws, tribal code or other provision which authorizes the waiver and permits tribal officials to execute contracts. Tribes have granted limited waivers of sovereign immunity. Waivers can be limited in a number of ways. A waiver can be limited to;

- (1) a specific tribal asset or enterprise revenue stream;
- (2) a specific type of legal relief sought by performance of the contract and not money damages;
- (3) a claim limited to the amount borrowed; or
- (4) a specific enforcement mechanism, such as court or arbitration. The Supreme Court has recently construed an arbitration clause contained in a contract executed by a tribe as constituting a clear waiver of sovereign immunity.

In this instance, the tribe entered into a contract that did not contain an express waiver of sovereign immunity or express consent to state court jurisdiction. Rather, the contract contained an arbitration provision in which the tribe agreed to arbitrate claims under the contract, agreed to the governance of state law, and agreed to the enforcement of the arbitrator award in "any court having jurisdiction." The Court concluded that the tribe waived immunity from suit and enforcement of the arbitration award with requisite clarity.

When a tribe engages in commercial activities as an unincorporated arm of the tribal government, it will need to address questions regarding tribal sovereign immunity. When a tribe enters into a commercial endeavor it is investing its time, energy, and resources, and its business partner is doing the same.

It is a reasonable business practice for all parties to want to protect their business investments. Tribal sovereign immunity can prevent a lender or business partner from





protecting its investment. Whenever a tribe or an unincorporated instrumentality of the tribe enters into a contract or agreement, sovereign immunity is implicated.

A lender or business partner will likely seek a method to protect its investment through a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. The decision to waive immunity is a governmental decision.

One of the disadvantages of forming a tribal business entity as an unincorporated instrumentality of a tribal government is that the sovereign status of the tribe may impede a tribe's ability to obtain credit and financing for its business transactions if agreements are not enforceable through judicial action.

Also, if a tribe does waive its immunity from suit through a tribal instrumentality, it may subject the assets of the tribe to potential liability for the obligations of the tribal instrumentality. Since there is no separate legal entity conducting business, the assets and obligations of the tribe are intermingled with the business.

### Beneficial Tax Treatment

There is no federal statutory provision that exempts Indian tribes from federal income taxation, however, the Internal Revenue Service has concluded that federally recognized tribes and their federally-chartered corporations are not subject to federal income taxes.

With respect to tribal governments, the IRS in Revenue Ruling 67-284 based its conclusion on the fact that tribes are political bodies that Congress did not intend to include within the meaning of taxable entities subject to the income tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code regardless of whether the business activity is inside or outside of Indian-owned lands. With respect to tribal federally-chartered corporations, the IRS takes the view that no taxable entity separate from the tribe exists.

Any income earned by a tribe is not subject to federal income tax regardless of whether a tribal business activity is on or off Indian-owned lands. The federal tax treatment of a tribal enterprise will depend on how a business is structured. The IRS has generally treated an unincorporated instrumentality or business operated directly by a federally recognized tribe as not subject to federal income tax, again because it is not considered to be an entity separate from the tribe itself.

As a note of caution, there is no per se exemption from federal income taxation when a tribe organizes as an "instrumentality." To be considered a nontaxable entity, the instrumentality must be operating as an arm of the tribe, and not organized as a separate legal entity.

In determining whether an entity qualifies as a government instrumentality, the IRS generally looks at the following six factors:

- 1) whether the organization is used for a governmental purpose and performs a governmental function;





- 2) whether performance of its function is on behalf of one or more governmental units (e.g., a state, a tribe or political subdivision);
- 3) whether there are any private interests involved, or whether the governmental unit has the power and interest of an owner;
- 4) whether control and supervision of the organization is vested in a public authority or authorities;
- 5) whether express or implied, statutory or other authority is necessary for the creation and/or use of the organization, and whether this authority exists; treatment as a government under the private foundation excise tax rules;
- 6) and the degree of financial autonomy of the entity and the source of its operating expenses.

If it meets this multi-factor test, an instrumentality will qualify for tax benefits reserved to governmental entities; such as the ability to receive charitable contributions or to issue tax exempt bonds. Recognizing that for some purposes tribal governments have similar qualities to state governments, Congress passed the Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act in 1982 to provide similar governmental tax treatment to tribes. The Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act, codified as section 7871 of the Internal Revenue Code, provides that federally recognized tribes are treated like states for purposes of a number of tax benefits, including:

- Charitable contributions are tax deductible
- Gifts and bequests are deductible
- Tax exempt bonding authority
- Exemption from certain excise taxes

Although Code Section 7871 did not codify the basic tax immunity of tribal governments, the legislative history indicates that Congress was aware of the Internal Revenue Service's position and did not wish to alter it.

### Outsourcing Fundraisers and Alternative Financing Considerations

Two major considerations in obtaining credit through conventional lending are:

- (1) the lenders need to be able to enforce an agreement; and
- (2) they need to protect their investment in the event of a default. A tribe operating an enterprise as an arm of the tribal government may have difficulty obtaining conventional financing.

### Ability to enforce agreements





Lenders will be reluctant to provide credit if they are not certain that they can enforce their contract against a tribal enterprise that is an arm of the tribe because, like the tribe, it will be immune from suit. A tribe and lender can address this in a number of ways. The tribe can waive sovereign immunity for a particular transaction.

The tribe can form an entity separate from the tribal governing body that does not have sovereign immunity from suit or which has been vested with limited sovereign immunity.

### Collateral and Security Interest

In addition to sovereign immunity concerns, a conventional lender will also want collateral or a security interest so that its investment is protected if there is a default or the enterprise is not successful.

An enterprise operating as an unincorporated instrumentality of the tribe and its governing body will not have separate assets or property to pledge as collateral. Rather, tribal assets would have to be pledged and there will be no limitation of liability.

### Project Financing/Non-Recourse Debt Financing

Project financing involves non-recourse financing of the development and construction of a particular project in which a lender looks primarily to the revenues expected to be generated from the project for the repayment of its loan and to the assets of the project as collateral for its loan rather than the general credit of the project owner or developer.

Capital-intensive projects requiring large investment of funds such as power plants, pipelines, and power generation facilities, are increasingly funded using project finance.

Developers of these projects are frequently not sufficiently creditworthy to obtain traditional financing or are unwilling to take the risks and assume the debt obligations for traditional financing.

Project financing permits the risks associated with such projects to be allocated among a number of parties at levels acceptable to each party.

For example, for an energy generation facility, there usually has to be a long-term off-take agreement or power sales agreement and the purchaser has to have good credit. A tribe developing wind power generation may obtain a power sales agreement from a utility who agrees to purchase the power generated by the project for a stated term.

Any utility that agrees to purchase the product must have good credit. The power sales agreement and the anticipated revenues could be pledged as security to obtain a loan for the construction and development of the project. The tribal developer would not have an obligation to make payments on the project loan if the revenues generated by the project are insufficient to cover the loan payments.





This type of financing allows the developer to finance the project on a highly leveraged basis. Often, projects are financed using 80 to 100 percent debt financing. A developer's funds are at less risk as it permits a developer to finance the project without diluting its equity investment in the project.

### Advantages and Disadvantages of Tribal Business Alliances

It can be challenging for a tribe that chooses to operate and manage a commercial enterprise through an unincorporated arm of the tribe. Since an unincorporated commercial enterprise of the tribe is acting as an extension of the tribe it is not set up as a separate legal entity from the tribe itself. The tribe will enter into a contract in its own name.

The assets and property of an unincorporated enterprise is not conveyed to a separate legal entity and can not be separately pledged as collateral. Thus it is more difficult to minimize the financial risks of the tribe by segregating the assets of the unincorporated enterprise. Then advantages of operating a business as an unincorporated instrumentality of the tribe include:

- Easy to form since it is formed as an arm of the tribal government--no need to set up a separate legal entity;
- Management is centralized through tribal governmental officials;
- Entity will have the same privileges and immunities as the tribal government including tribal sovereign immunity;
- Not subject to federal income tax;
- Section 81 approval by the Secretary of the Interior required if contracts or agreements encumber Indian land for a term of 7 years or more.

Disadvantages include:

- Politics and business not separated;
- Assets and liabilities of the enterprise are not segregated from governmental assets;
- Wholly-owned tribal entity--would preclude equity ownership in enterprise by outside investors.

A major disadvantage of an unincorporated instrumentality of the tribe is that it does not separate politics from the day-to-day business operation of the tribe and the tribe assumes liability for all of the obligations and liabilities of the enterprise.

This can result in micromanaging of a business enterprise which may hinder the tribal council's ability to set overall strategic economic development objectives.





Political Subdivision of Tribal Government Political subdivisions are increasingly utilized by Indian tribal governments as quasi-business entities because of the close link between economic development (a governmental function) and tribal ownership and conduct of businesses.

In some cases, such subdivisions are being formed as Economic Development Authorities that serve two functions:

- (1) as holding companies for business entities owned by the tribe; and
- (2) as regulatory bodies for business operations within the tribe's jurisdictional area. In other cases, political subdivisions are utilized to own and operate a specific enterprise or activity that has both a governmental and a business aspect to it, such as energy development, gaming or housing.

#### Brief Description and Examples

A political subdivision of an Indian tribal government is a unit of the government that:

1. Is, to some degree, separate from the government itself
2. Is created under tribal law to fulfill a substantial governmental function of the government
3. Has been delegated a sufficient amount of one or more recognized sovereign powers of the tribe. Recognized sovereign powers include, for the purpose:
  - a. the power to tax;
  - b. the power of eminent domain; and
  - c. a police or regulatory power.

This past year, the IRS ruled that a tribal business **development authority (the "Authority") may constitute a political subdivision of a federally recognized Indian tribe (the "Tribe"). In Private Letter Ruling ("PLR") 200635002, the Tribe, through its Tribal Council, established the Authority as a political subdivision of the Tribe.**

Authority was given the power to impose and collect:

1. Business income or franchise taxes, sales and use taxes, and other business-related taxes on any persons (limited to business entities chartered by the Tribe), transactions, or activities within Tribe's taxing jurisdiction, and
2. Service and licensing fees on business enterprises operating within Tribe's taxing jurisdiction.

The Tribe retained significant control over the Authority even though it was a separate entity. For example, it provided that all five members of Authority's governing board could be removed by the Tribal Council at any time with or without cause.





Furthermore, the Authority's capital and operating budgets were subject to Tribal Council approval before they became effective, while financial balance sheets and quarterly reports were required to be filed with the Tribal Council.

***The IRS found the Tribe effectively delegated all the power to tax, and one or more of the substantial governmental functions within the meaning of section 7871(d) of the Code.***

Therefore, the IRS held Authority will be treated as a political subdivision of Tribe under section 7871 of the Code.<sup>35</sup> Other examples of political subdivisions that have been recognized as such by the IRS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") include the following:

- A reservation infrastructure development authority or entity;
- Numerous tribal housing authorities, including an intertribal housing authority ;
- An intertribal river protection and fish commission;
- An industrial development commission charged with the administration and development of economic activities within tribal jurisdiction.

In certain instances, the IRS has ruled that a tribal entity did not qualify as a political subdivision. For example, the IRS ruled in the late 1990s that a state-chartered non-profit health entity was not a political subdivision of an Indian tribe because there was no evidence the tribe had delegated any sovereign powers to the entity.

Conversely, the IRS ruled in the mid-1980s that a tribal tax commission was not a political subdivision-- not because it lacked sovereign powers, but because it was an "integral part" of the government itself.

### Organizational Characteristics and Requirements

Most entities that qualify as political subdivisions of a tribal government are created under tribal law (generally, through a special purpose ordinance or legislative act) for a governmental purpose. Although political subdivisions are ultimately controlled by the tribe and its governing body, such subdivisions generally have their own governing body, whether it be a board of directors, a commission or other type of decision-making body.

As noted above, the hallmark of a political subdivision is its ability to exercise sovereign powers delegated to it by the tribe. Section 7871 of the Internal Revenue Code provides that a subdivision of an Indian tribal government shall be treated as a political subdivision of a state if (and only if) the IRS determines (after consultation with the Department of the Interior) that such subdivision has been delegated the right to exercise one or more of the substantial government functions of the Indian tribal government.





The legislative history provides that sovereign powers of an Indian tribal government include the power to tax, the power of eminent domain, and police powers (such as control over zoning, police protection, and fire protection).

Police powers generally include the power to promulgate and enforce regulations within an entity's scope of authority. Following passage of the Indian Tribal Government Tax Status Act in 1982, the IRS promulgated two revenue procedures relevant to tribal political subdivisions.

- The First - Revenue Procedure 84-36 lists all of the tribal entities that the IRS determined to be political subdivisions at that time.
- The Second - Revenue Procedure 84-37 provides specific procedures that must be followed by any tribe seeking to qualify an authority or subordinate entity as a political subdivision.

Tribal political subdivisions are not required by the IRS or BIA to obtain official recognition of their status for federal income tax purposes, but if a tribal political subdivision intends to be treated like a political subdivision of a state for all of the renumeralated federal tax benefits in Section 7871 (e.g. authority to issue tax-exempt bonds; entitlement to various excise tax exemptions; ability to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions), it must request an IRS ruling following specific IRS procedures.

Under the procedures set forth in **Revenue Procedure 84-37**, as updated annually by subsequent IRS revenue procedures, the first step in obtaining an IRS ruling on the political subdivision status of a tribal entity is to secure a letter from the Department of the Interior ("DOI") verifying that the Tribe has delegated a substantial government power to the entity.

The DOI letter may be obtained from the Solicitor's Office at the Department. There are no regulations or other administrative pronouncements on the format for the DOI letter request, other than the substantive guidance found in the IRS revenue procedures. DOI recognition is optional, and may be declined by the Tribal Council, for a myriad of reasons, mainly, international recognition.

The request should demonstrate that the subdivision has been validly established under tribal law and that the tribe's governing body has delegated one or more of the following three sovereign powers to the entity:

- 1) The power to tax;
- 2) The power of eminent domain; and
- 3) A police power.

There is no filing fee for requesting the DOI determination letter, but such determinations generally take at least 90 days to obtain. Once the DOI letter has been issued, the IRS ruling request may be filed.





Even though the IRS is not required to make a substantive determination of its own, the IRS charges the normal private letter ruling "user fee" for political subdivisions determinations.

*As of February 1, 2006, the user fee was \$10,000.* This type of private letter ruling will normally be processed in 90 to 120 days if all of the technical requirements are met.

### Sovereign immunity and liability

Sovereign immunity generally extends to political subdivisions of Indian tribal governments. Like an instrumentality, a tribal political subdivision shares the same attributes of tribal sovereignty as the tribe.

Sovereign immunity is essential in order to protect tribal assets and to safeguard tribal self-governance. When a political subdivision is utilized for economic development purposes, there are likely to be occasions in which the subdivision finds it useful or necessary to execute a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. Thus, the tribal ordinance establishing the subdivision should provide that the subdivision may execute any limited or transaction specific waiver of its sovereign immunity.

Limitations on the subdivision's exercise of such a right typically include;

- 1) Requiring advance approval of the Tribe's governing body; and
- 2) Clarifying that a subdivision's waiver of immunity does not in any way waive the tribe's immunity.

Additionally, in establishing a subdivision, it is useful to provide that the subordinate entity's immunity from suit does not extend to legal actions against it or its officers or directors brought by the tribe itself.

# Recommendations

## I. Strategic Alliance Agreement





- II. Incorporation/Board Appointment – 1st Hawaii tribal entity
- III. Register Transnational Corporation in Delaware (Inter-Tribal Alternative Entity)
  - Administrative Arm of Inter-Tribal Coalition
- IV. Apostille Transnational Corporate formation documents
- V. Healing Waters Ecosystem – an Intentional Indigenous Social & Economic Mutual Aide & Recognition Compact
- VI. ***ITWC Affiliated Indigeneopathic Research Stations*** and Grounds for Ceremonial Practices are Reserved Organizational considerations.

Land Trusts and Land Patents for Humanitarian advancement Indigenous medicine.



Our intentional communities are organized and maintained In accordance with the American Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People.

### Article XXV

Traditional forms of property and cultural survival

Right to land, territory, and resources

1. *Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, cultural, and material relationship with their*





*lands, territories, and resources and to uphold their responsibilities to preserve them for themselves and for future generations;*

- 2. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;*
- 3. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired;*
- 4. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned;*
- 5. Indigenous peoples have the right to legal recognition of the various and particular modalities and forms of property, possession and ownership of their lands, territories, and resources, in accordance with the legal system of each State and the relevant international instruments. States shall establish special regimes appropriate for such recognition and for their effective demarcation or titling.*

#### Healing Waters EcoSystem™ Tribal Chapters

- Native Indigenous Medicine Trade Association
- Endorsed and Administered by Inter-Tribal Wellness Coalition
- Proposed Chapters- Colorado, Delaware, Michigan, Louisiana, Costa Rica, New York, Washington DC, Georgia, California, Arizona, Texas, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Hawaii, Mexico, Haiti, Belize, United Kingdom

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Enrolled Special Consultative Status and Indigenous People Permanent Forum Workshops and Seminars for Sustainability.

## A'Ho Mitákuye Oyás'in

Mission Operational Overview And Continuing Research Areas: Subject to IRB Panel **indigineopathic** Medicine Research Stations and other proprietary information.

As a physician-scientist, We, the FDA-IRB Registered Panelist appreciate your interest in advancing healthcare in remote areas; particularly within North America's tribal communities, Federally and Inter-tribal Non-recognition Tribes, Bands, Clans, and Societies in all areas Local, and Abroad, without Prejudice to Location.

Let's delve into the importance of ITWC Affiliated **Indigeneopathic**® \*\*Holistic Medicine Research Stations\*\* and their impact on these underserved regions.





## ***Advancing Holistic Medicine Research in North America's Tribal Communities\*\****

A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute for the ITWC, Inc. Mission Operational Objectives and FDA-IRB Registered Panelist, all Rights Reserved.

Holistic medicine, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit, has been practiced by Indigenous communities across North America for centuries.

Despite its rich history and continued use, there remains a gap in understanding and integrating traditional healing methods into mainstream healthcare systems.

This research paper aims to explore the significance of establishing \*\*Holistic Medicine Research Stations\*\* in remote areas, focusing on tribal communities.

By bridging the gap between traditional Indigenous medicine and Western medicine, we can enhance health outcomes, promote cultural preservation, and empower communities.

### **## \*\*Introduction\*\***

1. **\*\*Background\*\***: Underserved and Observed Indigenous groups across North America have consistently relied on traditional healing practices.

These sacramental modalities, often passed down through generations, encompass herbal medicine, spiritual rituals, and holistic approaches.

However, Western-trained health, professionals and systems often lack CME comprehensive knowledge of the importance observed in these practices, in many areas of Traditional healing methods.

2. **Notable and Remarkable Health Disparities\*\***:





Tribal communities face significant health disparities, including higher rates of chronic diseases, **mental health** challenges, and limited access to quality healthcare. Integrating holistic medicine can address these disparities.

### ## **\*\*Holistic Medicine Research Stations:**

A Necessity\*\* Inter-Tribal Wellness Coalition initiatives and Resolutions:

1. **\*\*Cultural Preservation\*\***: Establishing research stations allows us to document and preserve traditional healing practices. By collaborating with Indigenous healers and practitioners, we can safeguard this invaluable cultural heritage.

2. **\*\*Evidence-Based Practice\*\***: Rigorous research is essential to validate the efficacy of traditional healing methods.

Research stations provide a platform for conducting clinical trials, observational studies, and qualitative research.

3. **\*\*Community Empowerment\*\***: Involving tribal communities in research fosters empowerment.

By actively participating in studies, community members contribute to their own well-being and influence healthcare policies.

4. **\*\*Holistic Health Integration\*\***: Research stations facilitate the integration of holistic medicine into mainstream healthcare.

This includes training Western practitioners, developing protocols, and creating interdisciplinary teams.

### ## **\*\*Challenges and Opportunities\*\***

1. **\*\*Legal and Statutory Rights\*\***:





Advocacy efforts are crucial to secure legal recognition and protection for traditional healers. Collaborating with tribal leaders, policymakers, and legal experts is essential.

2. **Funding and Sustainability**: Research stations require financial support. Partnerships with government agencies, philanthropic organizations, and academic institutions can ensure long-term sustainability.

3. **Ethical Considerations**: Respecting Indigenous knowledge and consent is paramount. Researchers must engage in culturally sensitive practices and adhere to ethical guidelines.

#### ## **Inferred General Pre-Conclusion**

Holistic Medicine Research Stations hold immense promise for North America's tribal communities.

By acknowledging the wisdom of traditional healing and integrating it with evidence-based medicine, we can create a more holistic, culturally competent, and equitable healthcare system.

Let us work collaboratively to bridge the gap and improve health outcomes for all.

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NIH to enhance tribal engagement efforts for precision medicine research. <sup>3</sup>

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NIH's All of Us Research Program Awards \$1.5 Million to Institutions Collaborating with Tribal Communities to Advance Precision Medicine. <sup>2</sup>

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This ITWC Affiliated Indigeneopathic Modalities, and Implications Research Paper is a collaborative effort, drawing insights from both Western medicine and Indigenous wisdom, from across the World.





Let us as ITWC Affiliated Indigeneopathic Research Program participants and Enrolled Practitioners, shall continue to learn, respect, and heal together.

<sup>1</sup>: [Read the full article](<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0237531>)

<sup>2</sup>: [NIH All of Us Research Program](<https://allofus.nih.gov/news-events/announcements/nihs-all-us-research-program-awards-15-million-institutions-collaborating-tribal-communities-advance-precision-medicine>)

<sup>3</sup>: [NIH News Release](<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-enhance-tribal-engagement-efforts-precision-medicine-research>)

Source: Conversation with Bing, 3/7/2024

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Ensuring culturally sensitive and respectful research is crucial for promoting equity, understanding, and collaboration.

Here are some key FDA IRB Registered Panelist strategies:





### 1. **Understanding Cultural Context**:

- Researchers should familiarize themselves with the customs, values, and beliefs of the target group before designing any project<sup>1</sup>.
- Recognize that cultural context shapes individuals' lifestyles, including their beliefs, habits, needs, fears, and risks<sup>1</sup>.

### 2. **Cultural Sensitivity and Competence**:

- **Cultural sensitivity** involves understanding and approaching individuals within a given culture to learn about their actual lifestyles<sup>1</sup>.
- Researchers demonstrate cultural sensitivity by:
  - Knowing key values of social groups.
  - Engaging in culturally appropriate communication.
  - Being willing to learn from the community<sup>1</sup>.

### 3. **Avoiding Misunderstandings**:

- Misunderstandings can arise due to cultural differences. For instance, dressing provocatively in a conservative community may lead to unwanted attention<sup>1</sup>.
- Researchers must be aware of potential pitfalls and adapt their behavior accordingly.

### 4. **Cultural Competence in Research**:

- **Cultural competence** refers to understanding the influence of social and cultural factors on patients' health beliefs and behaviors<sup>3</sup>.
- It involves:
  - Acknowledging unique characteristics of populations.
  - Designing research that considers cultural diversity.
  - Implementing culturally sensitive practices throughout the study<sup>3</sup>.

### 5. **Ethical Considerations**:





- Respect Indigenous knowledge and consent.
- Engage in ethical practices that honor cultural norms and values.
- Collaborate with tribal leaders and community members to ensure respectful research<sup>1</sup>.

In summary, culturally sensitive research requires empathy, openness, and a commitment to learning from diverse communities.

By integrating cultural competence into study design and implementation, we can conduct research that respects and benefits all involved<sup>3</sup>.

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Designing research studies that are **\*\*inclusive of diverse populations\*\*** is essential for equitable and impactful outcomes. Let's explore strategies to achieve this:

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### 1. **\*\*Understand the Population\*\***:

- **\*\*Scientific Rationale for Study Design\*\***: Begin by comprehensively understanding the burden, epidemiology, demographics, and non-demographics (such as social determinants of health) related to the disease or condition you're studying<sup>1</sup>.
- Consider the needs of the population and any unmet medical requirements. Make informed protocol design decisions based on this understanding.

### 2. **\*\*Inclusive Language and Terminology\*\***:

- **\*\*Protocol Title\*\***: When crafting the protocol title, consider whether distinguishing "sex" is necessary for the research study. If not, use inclusive language throughout the protocol and study documents<sup>1</sup>.
- Refer to guidance from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on measuring sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation<sup>1</sup>.

### 3. **\*\*Populations and SOAP Notes, Protocol Summary\*\***:

- Clearly state the purpose of the study, whether it focuses on a specific disease, disease pathway, or intervention.
- Describe the burden and epidemiology of the disease as best as possible.
- Highlight any unmet medical needs for the population or specific subgroups<sup>1</sup>.

### 4. **\*\*Ease of Access\*\***:

- During the design phase, consider features that enhance trial accessibility:





- Virtual visits.
- Weekend hours.
- Use of local labs or home health care for visits (when feasible).
- These accommodations help individuals facing challenges related to transportation, work hours, or childcare<sup>1</sup>.

#### 5. \*\*Scientific Rationale and Community Voice\*\*:

- Beyond the scientific rationale, address questions relevant to the population We aim to enroll.
- Ensure diverse, representative, and inclusive participant and community voices are heard throughout the study<sup>1</sup>.

#### 6. \*\*Consider Diverse Abilities and Contexts\*\*:

- Recognize that users come from various backgrounds and contexts:
  - Vision impairment, hearing loss, physical/motor impairment.
  - Cognitive differences (neurodivergence, anxiety, memory loss).
  - Past traumatic experiences.
  - Limited internet access, varying literacy levels, language skills, and cultural experiences.
  - Comfort with technology and knowledge/experience with the topic or process<sup>6</sup>.
- Design with flexibility to accommodate permanent, temporary, or situational needs.

#### 7. \*\*Collaborate and Learn\*\*:

- Engage with diverse stakeholders, including community members, tribal leaders, and experts.
- Continuously learn from the perspectives of different users to refine study design and implementation<sup>5</sup>.





Remember, inclusive design isn't just about compliance; it's about creating equitable and user-friendly experiences for everyone, regardless of their background or abilities<sup>6</sup>. By intentionally considering diversity, we can enhance the impact of our research studies.

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**\*\*References:\*\*** Citations and Points of Authority, and Academic resources.

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Let's explore an example of a research study that incorporates **inclusive design principles**. One such study is titled:

# **"Examining Inclusive Design Practices at the American University of Beirut"**

Disclaimer: A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute for the ITWC, Inc. Mission Operational Objectives and FDA-IRB Registered Panelist, all Rights Reserved.

## **Abstract**

This research study investigates the effectiveness of adopting an inclusive approach at the **American University of Beirut (AUB)** beyond mere compliance with building accessibility requirements.

AUB was chosen due to its critical role in providing professional education and promoting social inclusion for all individuals, including those with disabilities.

The study evaluates AUB's progress in eliminating barriers and ensuring equal access to higher education and employment for individuals with disabilities.

## **Methodology** Hypothetical framework: A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute





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### 1. **\*\*Case Study Selection\*\***:

- AUB was selected as the case study due to several factors:
  - One main campus in Beirut, facilitating the study.
  - Ownership of all buildings by AUB, allowing access audits and observations.
  - Approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for timely execution.
  - Availability of suitable online survey tools for data collection.
  - Proximity of the researcher to AUB, streamlining logistics.

### 2. **\*\*Research Design Approach\*\***:

- A mixed-methods approach was employed to collect both qualitative and quantitative data.
- The study assessed the extent to which inclusive design principles were applied at AUB.
- Key areas evaluated included physical environment, policies, procedures, and training.

### 3. **\*\*Key Factors Considered\*\***:

- **\*\*Cultural Context\*\***: Understanding the local context and cultural nuances.
- **\*\*Stakeholder Engagement\*\***: Involving architects, disability advocates, and community members.
- **\*\*Access Audit\*\***: Assessing physical spaces for accessibility.
- **\*\*Data Analysis\*\***: Combining qualitative insights with quantitative metrics.

### ## **\*\*Significance and Implications\*\***

- By examining AUB's inclusive practices, this study contributes to the understanding of how higher educational institutions can promote social inclusion and equal access.
- It highlights the importance of integrating inclusive design principles beyond legal requirements.
- Findings can inform policy changes, training programs, and architectural modifications.





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1. Shuayb, I. (2024). Examining Inclusive Design Practices at the American University of Beirut. In *\*Inclusive Design and Accessibility Paradigms in Lebanon\** (pp. 1-18). Springer. <sup>1</sup>

This study exemplifies how research can actively incorporate inclusive design principles to enhance accessibility and equity within educational institutions.<sup>1</sup>

Source: A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute for the ITWC, Inc. Mission Operational Objectives and FDA-IRB Registered Panelist, all Rights Reserved.

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As Enrolled Participants and PMA RESEARCH STATION Physician-scientist

Let's explore the **\*\*findings** related to traditional Indigenous medicine in North America**\*\*** from **1950 to 2024**, into the Millennium Age, and Beyond.

ITWC AFFILIATED INDIGENEOPATHIC RESEARCH MODALITIES SCOPING REVIEW: conducted by Nicole Redvers and Be'sha Blondin in 2020 sheds light on this topic;

Source: A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute for the ITWC, Inc. Mission Operational Objectives and FDA-IRB Registered Panelist, all Rights Reserved.





Despite the continued use of traditional healing methods by Indigenous groups across North America, there remains a gap in knowledge among most Western-trained health professionals and systems.

Approximately **7.5 million Indigenous peoples** currently reside in Canada and the United States, yet they are predominantly served by Western systems of medicine.

Here are the key takeaways from the scoping review:

1. **Themes**: The review identified **249 articles** categorized into the following themes:

- **General Traditional Medicine**: Insights into traditional healing practices.
- **Integration of Traditional and Western Medicine Systems**: Exploring how these systems intersect.
- **Ceremonial Practice for Healing**: Rituals and ceremonies related to healing.
- **Usage of Traditional Medicine**: How Indigenous communities utilize traditional remedies.
- **Traditional Healer Perspectives**: Perspectives from practitioners of Indigenous medicine.

2. **Purpose**: The review aims to provide an accessible **resource tool** for medical practitioners, scholars, and communities.

It helps them better understand Indigenous traditional medicine within the context of current clinical care delivery and future policymaking.

3. **Access the Review**: We can explore the full scoping review titled "Traditional Indigenous Medicine in North America" in the journal *PLoS ONE*<sup>1</sup>.





It serves as a valuable database for informed practice, research, and policy development in Indigenous communities.

Remember, traditional Indigenous medicine is deeply rooted in cultural practices, wisdom, and community connections.

By acknowledging and respecting these traditions, we can enhance healthcare for all individuals whom may benefit from their inclusive modalities and Cultural factors.

<sup>1</sup>: [Read the full scoping review here](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0237531)

Source: A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute for the ***ITWC, Inc. Mission Operational Objectives and FDA-IRB Registered Panelist findings or Opinions, all Rights Reserved.***

(1) Traditional Indigenous medicine in North America: A scoping review - PLOS.  
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**\*\*Intercultural health\*\*** is emerging as a transformative approach to healthcare, integrating **\*\*Western medical practices with traditional Indigenous healing methods\*\***. This comprehensive system is becoming increasingly vital in countries with Indigenous populations<sup>2</sup>. Let's delve deeper into how this integration can occur:

1. **\*\*Mutual Respect and Collaboration\*\***:

- **\*\*Acknowledgment\*\***: Western medicine should recognize and respect the rich history and efficacy of Indigenous healing practices.
- **\*\*Collaboration\*\***: Health professionals from both systems can work together, sharing knowledge and expertise.

2. **\*\*Cultural Competency\*\***:





- **Education**: Western healthcare providers should learn about Indigenous cultures, beliefs, and practices.

- **Sensitivity**: Understand the importance of cultural context in health and healing.

### 3. **Holistic Approach**:

- **Mind-Body-Spirit Connection**: Indigenous medicine often considers spiritual and emotional aspects alongside physical health. Western medicine can adopt a more holistic view.

- **Traditional Healing Practices**: Incorporate traditional ceremonies, rituals, and plant-based remedies.

### 4. **Community Involvement**:

- **Community Elders**: Engage with Indigenous elders and healers. Their wisdom is invaluable.

- **Local Context**: Understand community needs and tailor healthcare accordingly.

### 5. **Research and Evidence**:

- **Scientific Exploration**: Investigate the efficacy of Indigenous healing practices through rigorous research.

- **Evidence-Based Integration**: Use evidence to inform joint treatment plans.

### 6. **Health Policy and Advocacy**:

- **Inclusion**: Advocate for Indigenous representation in healthcare policy and decision-making.

- **Equitable Access**: Ensure Indigenous communities have equal access to both systems.

Remember, this integration is not about replacing one system with another but creating a harmonious blend that respects cultural diversity and promotes well-being for all Individuals who may Thrive under **Indigeneopathic Research Modalities**.

Source: A.I. assisted Research Support, and References generally referenced for developmental research purposes and not a substitute for the ITWC, Inc. Mission





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For All Resolution Requests, Please address your Correspondence to the Following address:

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**A Registered Hawaii Nonprofit Corp.**

*Office of the Board of Trustees and Executive FDA IRB Research Program.*

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<https://www.naceonline.com/pages/about-nace>

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