


Department of Consumer and Business Services <b>Government to Government Relations with American Indian Tribes in Oregon – Policy COM-11</b>	
Division: Director's Office Owner: Deputy Director	Effective Date: April 7, 2015
Approved by: Mary Moller 2/3/2022 	Review Date: 2/3/2024

**Applies To:**

This policy applies to all of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) divisions, including the Workers' Compensation Board.

**Purpose:**

To promote positive government-to-government relations between the Department of Consumer and Business Services and tribal governments of the nine federally recognized Native American tribes in Oregon.

**Definitions:**

Tribe – A federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon as defined in ORS 182.162.

**Policy:**

It is the department's policy to promote communication between the department and tribal governments. The DCBS director and the Multicultural Communications Program manager are designated as key agency contacts with tribal governments and will participate, at an appropriate level, in the Senate Bill 770 (2001) Health and Human Services and Economic Development and Community Services Cluster meetings to ensure there is appropriate communications with the tribes.

Because of the sovereign status of tribal governments and the regulatory nature of the department's business, few activities of the department affect the tribes. However, by choice or through memorandums of understanding, there may be occasions when tribes choose to receive services of the department. The relationship between Oregon tribes and state government will continue to be respected in all dealings between the tribes and DCBS.

All department employees are expected to identify whether an existing program or program under development potentially affects tribal governments and report it to the DCBS director or Multicultural Communications Program manager. The director or Multicultural Communications Program manager will contact each affected tribe to identify an appropriate representative designated by the tribe.

The Multicultural Communications Program manager is responsible for coordinating appropriate employee training on government-to-government relations on the tribes' sovereign status, tribal members' rights, and other issues of concern. The Multicultural Communications Program manager will coordinate with division administrators or deputies to identify employees who have communication with Oregon tribes and shall attend the annual training offered by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

The Multicultural Communications Program manager will also prepare the department's annual report to the governor and the Commission on Indian Services as outlined in ORS 182.166(3). The manager will work with the division administrators and deputies to identify circumstances in which divisions have provided services or technical assistance to Oregon tribes or efforts were made to promote communications with the tribes.

**References:**

ORS 182.162 to 182.168, Relationship of State Agencies to Indian Tribes