



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

AUG 17 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Biden Administration is considering the development of a 10-year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization. The Plan would lay out a long-term, all-of-government strategy that works with Tribal Nations and, as appropriate, non-profit organizations, subject-matter experts, and other entities for the revitalization, protection, preservation, and reclamation of Native Languages.

The core aspects of the Plan may include a focus on creating a national awareness on the importance of Native languages; recognizing the role the U.S. played in erasing Native languages; integrating Native language learning in mainstream educational systems and the promotion of Native language reclamation in Federal policies; and identifying a wide range of funding and resources for Native language revitalization.

Through Consultation, the Administration seeks input from Tribal Leaders and Stakeholders as to:

- (1) What existing Federal funding streams and resources are most helpful to your Native language programs, initiatives, or efforts?
- (2) What are the barriers and challenges to Native language revitalization and protections?
- (3) Aside from increased Federal funding, what more could the Federal government do to support Native Language revitalization, reclamation, and protection?
- (4) What elements need to be in a National Plan for Language Revitalization?
- (5) What role should Tribes and others have in the National Plan?

The following table lists the date and consultation registration information. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

FOR:	DATES:	LOCATION and TIME:	TO JOIN WEBINAR:
Tribal Governments	September 14 th , 2022	Virtual 3:00-5:00 EST	Register in advance for this meeting: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsduGtrT woGedlHfvEdXWwyLriXYj z3rc

If you would like to provide written input, please email your comments to consultation@bia.gov no later than October 14, 2022, 11:59PM. If you have any questions regarding the Tribal consultation, you may contact Tracy Goodluck, Senior Policy Advisor, by phone at (202) 208-7163 or by email at tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Newland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a stylized "N".

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

FRAMING PAPER
NATIONAL/FEDERAL PLAN ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES
DISCUSSION DRAFT

We are at a critical juncture for Indigenous languages. National Geographic reported in April of 2018 that between 1950 and 2010, 230 languages went extinct. This was according to the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger. Today, a third of the world's languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers left, which is the case for many of the Indigenous languages of the United States. Somewhere in the world, every two weeks a language dies with its last speaker, and 50 to 90 percent of languages are predicted to disappear by the next century. Native Languages are a critical and sacred part of Tribal/Indigenous communities. Native languages provide the backbone of Native culture and are vitally tied to traditional ways of life.

In acknowledgment of the cultural devastation caused to Native communities with the early policies of the United States, such as the boarding school and allotment eras, the federal government seeks to strengthen its support for the preservation, reclamation, and protection of Native and Indigenous languages. This work began with Presidential Executive Order 14049, the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities and the Interagency Native Language Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) announced last November 2021.

The federal government plans to continue and strengthen this work via a comprehensive National Plan on Native Language Revitalization and Reclamation for the next 10 years (2022-2032), similar to that of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages that many Tribal and Indigenous communities are participating in already.

While the work has already begun from ideas generated for this plan from targeted listening sessions, the plan cannot and should not be done without consulting with Tribal Nation leaders and Native language experts identified by Tribes themselves.

The plan will be developed in collaboration with the Departments of Interior, Education, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture as lead agencies in the MOA, and others as a whole of government approach is necessary.

We seek your input on developing a framework during consultation and listening sessions.