



IAQ : Indigenous Affairs Quarterly

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indigenous Affairs Committee (IAC)

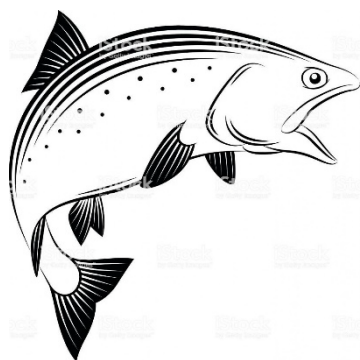
Fall, 2025

If you are receiving this edition as contact for your meeting or committee, please share it. You may forward it to your listserv, cut and paste, or print copies to share. It will also be posted on the Indigenous Affairs Committee's website along with previous editions. The new site for the committee is [here](#).

In the News

The Miccosukee Tribe is participating in a lawsuit against the infamous “**Alligator Alcatraz**,” a detention facility for immigrants that was built on its ancestral lands without Tribal consultation. The Tribe stated that the facility is near “hundreds, if not thousands, of protected ceremonial and religious sites.” The Tribe’s right to use the land, including for religious ceremonies and medicinal practices, is stated in the Everglades National Park Act and the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act.

In the largest **land back deal** in California history, more than 17,000 acres around the Klamath River in Northern California, have been returned to the Yurok Tribe. Anita Hofschneider reports for the Nonprofit Quarterly:



The land transfer comes just months after the utility PacifiCorp removed four dams on the Klamath River, the largest dam removal project in US history. The removal of the dams enabled coho and Chinook salmon that had been blocked to finally swim upstream to spawn for the first time in more than a century. The deal is also part of a broader push to revitalize the Klamath River Basin, where water diversions and pollution have long strained the wildlife and the Indigenous peoples who rely on them.

Read the full story [here: https://nonprofitquarterly.org/in-californias-largest-landback-deal-the-yurok-tribe-reclaims-sacred-land-around-klamath-river/](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/in-californias-largest-landback-deal-the-yurok-tribe-reclaims-sacred-land-around-klamath-river/)

What We're Learning

Whoa. Salmon rock! Did you know that salmon sued the city of Seattle – and the city changed its plans for a dam project so salmon could make their way upstream to spawn? IAC Co-Clerk Susannah Rose attended a recent gathering of Virginia's seven Federally recognized tribes, which focused on indigenous conservation and the rights of nature. Specifying the rights of nature in Tribal constitutions for their land is a legal strategy that is being tested. The vision is that if a Tribe (or any government) spells out the rights that a river has in its constitution, an upstream polluter that violates those rights might be held liable by the river itself – just as a person might sue a neighbor whose tree smashed their roof.

While the Seattle case was settled out of court, the Ojibway have sued Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources on behalf of wild rice – and that case is ongoing. Read about it here: <https://www.earthlawcenter.org/blog-entries/2022/4/wild-rice-gets-its-day-in-court>

Resources

The Friends Peace Teams program, "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples," offers an impressive range of papers, videos, webinars, and other resources that can be used for education in Quaker meetings or for individuals who want to know more about current issues and history. The program offers a resource kit that includes land acknowledgements and reparations, while the calendar for October includes three webinars for allies who want to work toward right relationships. Find it all [here](https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/#trrresources), and keep scrolling!

To cite just one example of upcoming online events sponsored by Friends Peace Teams:

10/28/2025, **"Whose Land Is It?" by Rick Williams (Oglala Lakota/Cheyenne)** – Online Presentation – 8pm ET – [REGISTER HERE](#)



At the Virginia conference of Sovereign Nations, Helmut Modlik, CEO of the Ngati Toa Tribe of New Zealand, shared insights on the challenges of maintaining sovereignty and self-determination for indigenous peoples.

Patricia R. Powers, a former member of the IAC, has just published *Respect & Justice for Indigenous Peoples: Becoming Allies*. The book captures the history of BYM's Indigenous Affairs Committee from 1940-2025.

Special Events

The Pocahontas Project invites Baltimore Yearly Meeting to join them for the 2025 **Richmond Indigenous Peoples' Day** celebration on **Monday October 13th** at



Photo Courtesy of the Pocahontas Project

Powhatan Hill Park in Richmond's East End. The event is free. You can find the details [here: https://bit.ly/RichmondIPD](https://bit.ly/RichmondIPD). The Pocahontas Project also sponsors an annual festival of indigenous films in Richmond, Virginia. This year, the dates are **November 20-23**. Find the information [here:](https://www.pocahontasreframed.com/) <https://www.pocahontasreframed.com/>

Sandy Spring is hosting the annual Craft Bazaar and Holiday Party for the American Indian Society at their meeting house on **December 6**. The bazaar is 10-4pm and the party is 5-7 pm. All are welcome!

The Baltimore Indian Center is presenting its 49th annual powwow on **Saturday, November 25**. Take the family to Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD to enjoy native foods and vendors, as well as dances and special events. Entry is \$10 for adults and the time is 11am-7pm.

On **October 11 and 12**, in Indian Neck, Virginia, the Rappahanock Tribe will also host a powwow. Find all the information [here:](https://www.rappahannocktribe.org/news-events/) <https://www.rappahannocktribe.org/news-events/>

As always, check out for this great site for events in your area: <https://www.powwows.com>

Opportunities to Partner

Has your meeting approved a minute in support of the proposed Truth and Healing Commission on Boarding Schools? And have you forwarded it to your Senators and to FCNL? The legislation is now before Congress. You can write your representatives [here: https://www.fcnl.org/issues/native-americans](https://www.fcnl.org/issues/native-americans)