



IAQ : Indigenous Affairs Quarterly

An Update from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting IA Committee

Spring, 2025

If you are receiving this edition as contact for your meeting or committee, **please share it**. You may forward it to your listserve, 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 Native American Rights Fund filed suit against the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Personnel Management, and Office of Indian Affairs challenging staff reductions at the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Haskell Indian Nations University, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. The suit states that BIE failed to consult with tribes and asserted other violations regarding the BIE's restructure and reduction of staff.

"Tribal Nations and the federal government should be working together to best serve our Native students. Instead, the administration is randomly, without preparation and in violation of their federal trust responsibility, taking away teachers and staff from already-underserved facilities. Our students deserve better," said Pueblo of Isleta Governor Eugene Jiron. Read more from the [Native American Rights Fund](#).

What We're Learning

It's women's history month, and the Chickasaw Nation is honoring the life of Pearl Carter Scott. Born in 1915, Pearl was officially granted her student pilot's permit by the age of 13. She was the first Chickasaw aviator. By age 14, Pearl was working as a commercial pilot, ferrying packages and passengers across Oklahoma. She also became a favorite attraction at air shows as one of the youngest performing barnstormers. Paul F. Lambert has written a book about her: [Never Give Up! The Life of Pearl Carter Scott](#).

Are Native Americans citizens of the U.S.? You bet. However, Congress didn't grant citizenship to Native Americans until 1924. This fact was cited to justify the recent Executive Order seeking to overturn birthright citizenship. Many Native Americans have been detained by ICE, which some tribal spokespersons attribute to racial profiling. Tribes, some Senators, and state officials have protested.

Resources

Got questions? The National Museum of the American Indian has a terrific set of Fact Sheets that address a wide range of subjects, such as land acknowledgements, policies and laws, native

cultures, terminology, and mascots. These are great teaching resources! Check out: [Frequently Asked Questions | Native Knowledge 360° - Interactive Teaching Resources](#)

Native News Online features an interview (less than 15 minutes) with outgoing Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, a Laguna Pueblo Native American. The interview covers her achievements, issues facing Native Americans, and her hopes for the future. Find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvvvYN5OcuA>

Special Events

Do you have a local powwow? You can find out at PowWows.com. Sponsoring a powwow or attending one as a family or members of a meeting is a great way to begin building relationships with tribes and indigenous people in your area.

Virginia Tech's Indigenous Community Center, in partnership with the Native student organization, will host its annual Spring Pow Wow on Saturday, April 19th, from 12-4. See: [Virginia Tech Spring 2025 Pow Wow – Pow Wow Calendar](#)

Villanova University will host its first powwow on April 26 on Mendal Field, from 12-4. See: [Villanova University 1st Annual Pow Wow 2025 – Pow Wow Calendar](#)

Opportunities to Partner

The following is from the FCNL website:

For the past five years, FCNL has been advocating for a bill to establish a truth and healing commission to investigate the U.S. federal government's role in implementing Indian Boarding Era policies. From the early 1800s to the late 1960s, the U.S. government attempted to assimilate Native children into white culture. These policies stole Native children from their homes, their communities, and their cultures. Many religious institutions, [including Quakers](#), were actively involved in running boarding schools.

The bill has a promising trajectory this Congress. In late February, Sens. Lisa Murkowski (AK), chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Elizabeth Warren (MA) reintroduced the version of the bill that passed in the 118th Congress for consideration in this 119th Congress. Key changes from the text of the original bill include requiring that representatives of faiths serve on an advisory committee and removal of the ability to subpoena witnesses to testify.

Please write your Congressional representatives and ask them to support this important bill.

Suggested language is available on the FCNL website. Your communication will be more effective if you insert a personal note explaining why you care.

Address correspondence related to this IAQ or suggestions for future IAQs to susanhillrose@gmail.com, Co-Clerk of BYM's Indigenous Affairs Committee.