GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Centennial Accord Issues Tracker Update

Following the 36th Annual Centennial Accord, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) created the Centennial Accord Issues Tracker. Due to the number of issues being tracked, the tracker is condensed when it is shared with Tribal leaders and state agencies. To help ensure that the Issues Tracker contains the most current information, GOIA established the temporary Centennial Accord Innovation Workgroup subcommittees focused on Natural Resources, Health and Social Services, Education, and Economic Development. These subcommittees met several times to identify completed requests and on-going Tribal priorities within these areas.

State-Tribal Relationships

During the 36th Annual Centennial Accord, the Governor and Tribal leaders focused on strengthening the state-Tribal relationship. Of the 27 requests, 26 are in progress and the status of one request is unknown. Under Executive Order (EO) 25-10, many of these requests have been addressed, including improving state communications with Tribes, strengthening Tribal consultation policies, improving the contracting process, and including Tribes on budget updates. Following the EO 25-10 reports, the Governor's Office and state agencies will have one year to update their Tribal Consultation policies.

Natural Resources

Of the 51 requests related to Natural Resources, 25 are in progress and 26 are unknown. Many Natural Resources efforts have increased communications with Tribal leaders but there remain opportunities to integrate Tribal considerations in state systems.

Health and Social Services

Of the 70 Health and Human Services requests from Tribal leaders 53 are in progress, five are completed, and three are unknown. Progress was made in behavioral health, communication and coordination, and consultation. Behavioral health requests have advanced due to several behavioral health bills that passed last session. Communication and coordination, as well as consultation, remain largely in progress as agencies work to meet the requirements of Executive Order 25-10. Areas that need more attention include coordination with the judicial system, public safety, and data systems. Overall, agencies are action-oriented and working toward becoming more outcome-driven.

Education

Of the 41 education-related requests, 15 are in progress and status of 26 is unknown. Due to leadership turnover within the education sector, the status of many requests remains unknown. However, the commitment of Tribal liaisons within the education sector continues to elevate Tribal concerns and support continuity during leadership transitions.

Economic Development

Of the 13 requests, one is completed, five are in progress, and 8 are of unknown status. The Federal Impacts workgroup and OFM quarterly updates have provided greater transparency to Tribal leaders regarding budget impacts. Administrative and legislative changes are still needed to improve Tribal eligibility for funding opportunities.

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) Executive Order 25-10 Action Items Update

Section 1 – Summary of Agency Compliance Reports

For Executive Order 25-10, Section 1, 38 state agencies submitted reports to the GOIA. In subsections A and E, all 38 agencies reported they are compliant. This indicates that every agency reported proactively engaging with Tribal Nations and appropriately reporting on agency activities that impact Tribal Nations.

Subsection B, which addresses Tribal consultation practices, also has a high rate of compliance, with 37 of the 38 agencies reporting that they engage with Tribal Nations in the development and implementation of agency policies, programs, or actions that impact Tribal Nations.

Subsection C, recognizing and incorporating Indigenous knowledge into policy, programs, and decision-making, 26.3% reported being compliant, 36.8% reported being in-progress, 5.3% reported not yet compliant, and 28.9% reported not applicable as it relates to the recognition and incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge. The agency responses indicate a need for state agencies to develop policies on protecting Indigenous Knowledge and sensitive Tribal information, while recognizing that individual Tribal Nations retain authority over their own Indigenous Knowledge.

Subsection D, which addresses support for Washington State Native artists and culture, has a lower rate of compliance, with four agencies reporting full compliance. Many other agencies indicated that the requirement was not applicable or that their role in this area is indirect. However, in June 2026, the Arts Commission – Tribal Cultural Affairs

produced the Tribal Cultural Roadmap with Native artist Shana Yellow Calf. The roadmap celebrates and promotes Tribal museums and cultural locations across the state. All Tribes and Tribal cultural facilities were invited to participate regardless of whether they have a museum.

The Arts Commission is also launching a new Washington State Tribal Artists Directory in Fall 2026. This directory is intended to connect people, markets, and communities directly to individual Native artists. The process to be listed will be simple for artists to complete, and the only requirement is that artists must live in Washington State and show proof of Tribal citizenship. The directory is currently in testing with a small group of Native artists.

For state law, 38 of the agencies reported 100 percent compliance with Subsections (i)-(iv). However, only one agency reported compliance with Subsection (v), which requires an agency head, executive team members, and Tribal liaisons to receive the Tribal relations training currently offered by GOIA.

Section 2 – Summary of Tribal Relations Training for Washington State Employees

The Acting Executive Director of GOIA, Gordon James, continues to provide Tribal relations training to state agencies in addition to his other roles and responsibilities. GOIA has developed training focused on fostering effective communication and collaboration between the state and Tribes, which has been offered for more than 20 years. Acting Executive Director Gordon James provides training to executive and small cabinet agencies and executive leadership teams, institutions of higher education, and independent Boards and Commissions, among others.

Section 3 – Summary of Developing Tribal Consultation Guidelines

From April 2026 to August 2026, GOIA met monthly with the Tribal Consultation Guidelines Workgroup. GOIA worked with Tribal Nations, the Governor's Office, and state agencies to develop draft Tribal Consultation Guidelines. GOIA shared the final draft with Tribal Nations, the Governor’s policy team and Assistant Attorney General for approval. GOIA will present the final Tribal Consultation Guidelines at the Centennial Accord in October 2026.

Within one year of the Tribal Consultation Guidelines being issued, GOIA will remind cabinet agencies that they must fully incorporate and implement the tenets and principles of Tribal consultation outlined in the Guidelines within their Tribal consultation policies and procedures.

Section 4 – Responsibilities of the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs

To support strong and meaningful relationships with Tribal Nations and regular, robust

engagement, GOIA hosts various workgroups, including the Tribal-State Federal Impacts Check-in, Centennial Accord Quarterly Check-in, Tribal Liaison Collaboration Workgroup, and previously held the Centennial Accord Innovation Workgroup, and Contracting Workgroup.

To support state agency Tribal liaisons, GOIA holds Tribal liaison Collaboration Workgroup meetings, with special meetings focused on the Legislative Session and the development of the Centennial Accord Agenda. GOIA continues to receive feedback from Tribal liaisons on issues they would like to address during these meetings.

Section 5 – Developing Governor's Office Tribal Consultation Policy

Following the 37th Annual Centennial Accord, GOIA will co-develop the Governor's Office Tribal Consultation Policy alongside the Governor's executive leadership team and Tribal Nations.

Section 6 – Summary of Improving State-Tribal Contracting Processes

In September 2026, GOIA submitted the *Improving the State-Tribal Contracting Processes Report* to the Governor's Policy Team. The Contracting Workgroup was comprised of representatives from relevant state agencies, Tribal leaders, and Tribal staff who regularly interact with state-Tribal contracts. The Workgroup discussed the historic challenges related to state-Tribal contracting and current best practices.

The Workgroup has met monthly from April 2026 to August 2026, with separate subcommittees meetings focused on the types of intergovernmental agreements commonly used when contracting with Tribal Nations, including Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), grants and contracts, and goods and services. Each subcommittee developed best practices and identified challenges that have been incorporated into the report.

Section 7 – Protecting Sensitive Information in Government-to-Government Engagements

On October 1, GOIA submitted our report on *Protecting Sensitive Information in Government-to-Government Engagement.* The report summarizes the experiences shared by Tribal Nations, state agency Tribal liaisons, and state agency compliance reports. On September 21, 2026, GOIA held a Roundtable on Protecting Sensitive Tribal Information in Government-to-Government Engagement. Due to low attendance from Tribal leaders, GOIA sent out the Roundtable questions to Tribal leaders and staff for additional feedback. On September 1, 2026, GOIA met with the state agency Tribal liaisons for feedback on current state systems handling of Tribal sensitive information and Indigenous Knowledge, and areas for improvement. Additionally, GOIA pulled information from the EO 25-10 state agency compliance reports that were submitted in

December 2025, which required agencies to submit information on their current policies for handling Indigenous Knowledge.

Through these engagements, it was emphasized that Tribal Nations have the authority to define the scope of Indigenous Knowledge and sensitive Tribal information. Participants also shared that state agencies should seek to engage with Tribes on the definition and use of Indigenous Knowledge and sensitive Tribal information within state systems. Agencies should also seek ways to train staff, beyond Tribal liaisons, on interacting with Indigenous Knowledge and sensitive information. The state should also consider developing protections for Indigenous Knowledge and sensitive Tribal information that prevent avoidable exposure, including through intentional policies that exempt certain Tribal information from disclosure under the Public Records Act. These considerations can strengthen government-to-government engagement while recognizing the value Indigenous Knowledge brings to the state of Washington.