



2018

COMMUNITY REPORT



NATIVE GOVERNANCE
CENTER

WAYNE DUCHENEAUX II EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018 was a phenomenal year for Indian Country. Native candidates boldly shook up the national political landscape and ignited grassroots movements for change at the local level.

As we worked to expand all areas of our organization—our programming, partnerships, and capacity—this energy motivated us to continue fighting for Tribal sovereignty and strong Native communities.

With that context in mind, I'm pleased to present our 2018 Community Report. This report features some of our most important highlights from the past year. I hope it inspires you to take action and join the ever-growing nation building movement.



OUR MISSION

Native Governance Center is a Native-led nonprofit organization that assists Tribal nations in strengthening their systems of governance and capacity to exercise sovereignty.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We empower Native leaders of all ages to strengthen their communities through our Rebuilders and Youth Rebuilders programs.

TRIBAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

We listen to Tribes' needs and provide them with a variety of tools and expertise for amplifying their sovereignty.

CORE PROGRAMS

Tribal Governance Support Projects

MILLE LACS BAND CANDIDATE FORUMS

We partnered with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to host pre-election forums to educate Tribal citizens on their candidate options.



PRAIRIE ISLAND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

We started a multi-year constitutional reform support project with the Prairie Island Indian Community.



bushCONNECT 2018

bushCONNECT brings together leaders from around the region to promote cross-sector connections.

We recruited a cohort of **17 Native leaders from 11 nations** to attend the event with us.





Reclaiming Native Media Narratives

NGC + IN IT TOGETHER

Media representation matters. We're working to counter dominant media narratives that limit Native opportunity.

We partnered with TPT - Twin Cities PBS and producer/director Missy Whiteman to create several short Tribal governance-related videos as part of TPT's initiative, **In It Together**.



2018 NATION BUILDING CELEBRATION

104 Native leaders and allies attended our 2018 Nation Building Celebration held at Mystic Lake Center. These generous sponsors made our event possible:



*Join the movement
to strengthen Tribal
sovereignty!*



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nation building:

the processes by which a Native nation enhances its own capacity to exercise sovereignty.

NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER REBUILDERS PROGRAM

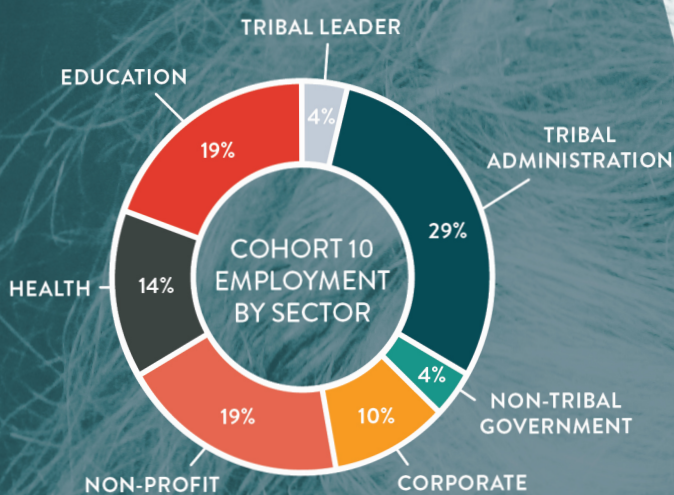
The purpose of the Native Nation Rebuilders program is to equip Native leaders with Tribal governance knowledge and advocacy skills. The two-year program empowers Native leaders to carry out nation building projects to positively impact their communities.

3

NUMBER OF COHORT 10 REBUILDERS who serve or have ever served as an elected official.

52%

PERCENTAGE OF COHORT 10 REBUILDERS who currently serve on a board of directors



COHORT 10 SELECTION

We welcomed the members of Cohort 10 to our Native Nation Rebuilders family during an introductory session at Mystic Lake.

The **21 Cohort 10 Rebuilders** represent **14 of the 23 Native nations** located in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

16

AVERAGE AGE of Youth Rebuilders

3

AVERAGE YEARS SPENT on the Turtle Mountain Youth Council

COHORT 9 REFLECTION

We graduated Cohort 9 Rebuilders in December 2018. Here's what they had to say about their experience with the program:

I get most of my inspiration from my Rebuilder family! They inspire me because of everything they're doing in the community. They set the tone for being a leader.

—Cante Heart

Every day, I reflect upon the nation building training I've received thus far and the ideas and support that I've gained from my fellow Cohort 9 members. It's really helped me to understand that a top-down approach is not going to work. The standard approach is not going to work.

—Brian Dillon

The Rebuilders program changed my life, and I have now sharpened my focus on how I want to encourage and inspire my people.

—Margaret Landin



REBUILDERS 2.0

8 Rebuilders joined us for a self-care and empowerment workshop centered on equine therapy. Rebuilders 2.0 provides additional learning and development opportunities for program alumni.

Why an alumni program? Rebuilders have requested that we provide ongoing opportunities for them to stay engaged with one another and Native Governance Center following graduation. A particular interest in attending culturally relevant, self-care focused events was expressed.

Research has shown that involvement in cultural practices is one of the most effective means for Native people to address historical trauma-related stress.

YOUTH REBUILDERS PILOT YEAR

This year, we launched the Youth Rebuilders program in response to feedback from our Native Nation Rebuilders. Rebuilders saw a need to support and empower the next generation of Native leaders.

Our Youth Rebuilders pilot session took place in summer 2018 with leaders from the Turtle Mountain Youth Council.

The Youth Rebuilders program prepares young Native leaders for future success by enhancing their self-esteem, empowering them to model Indigenous leadership and wellness, and inspiring them to create positive change through new ways of thinking about Tribal governance.

