

# NATIVE NATION REBUILDING

STANDARD APPROACH	NATION REBUILDING APPROACH
Native nations DO NOT set the agenda.	Native nations set and guide the agenda.
External entities impose their agendas on Native nations, promoting a top-down approach. Nations are dependent on U.S. federal government resources.	Tribal citizens inform their nation's agenda, which reflects their interests, culture, etc. (bottom-up approach). Native nations exercise Tribal sovereignty and self-determination.
Native nations make short-term, nonstrategic decisions.	Native nations make long-term, strategic, and 7th generation-focused decisions.
Nations in crisis mode often react and seek opportunities that produce short-term fixes.  They implement non-sustainable initiatives.	Nations are proactive and seek opportunities that produce long-term solutions. They implement sustainable and long-lasting initiatives.
Native nations focus only on addressing economic issues to strengthen economic development.	Native nations focus on establishing effective governing institutions to strengthen economic development.
Nations spend time creating new businesses, jobs, and lobbying for resources to provide income opportunities for their citizens. These opportunities often focus on natural resource extraction.	Nations create and improve Tribal government systems and processes, such as reforming constitutions and establishing and following codes, policies, and laws. They eventually strengthen economic development.
Native nations treat Indigenous culture and values as barriers to progress.	Native nations see Indigenous culture and values as key assets for the rebuilding process.
Nations discourage and look down upon traditional Indigenous practices. They do not include traditional values in their decisionmaking processes.	Nations give Indigenous culture and values a fundamental role in their rebuilding process.  They create effective governing institutions that reflect Indigenous values and practices.
Native nations center elected leaders who focus on distributing resources to citizens.	Native nations have diverse leaders at all levels who empower and educate citizens.
Elected leaders control and distribute most resources, such as jobs, housing, and services. Charges of favoritism and corruption increase, leading to citizens distrusting leadership.	Elected leaders focus on community welfare, rather than personal interests. Tribal citizens' mindsets shift to see Tribal government as legitimate and having a main role of rebuilding Native nations.



# NATIVE NATION REBUILDING PRINCIPLES

### TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Definition:** Leaders serve as visionaries, changemakers, and mobilizers.

**Action:** Leading with intention, conviction, and clear direction while ensuring the community is included.

### STRONG GOVERNING SYSTEMS

**Definition:** Laws and policies are effective, clear, and fair.

**Action:** Establishing well-thought-out systems that include procedures, protocols, and policies. These systems ensure checks and balances for leadership and all citizens to support effective decision making.

## SEVENTH GENERATION THINKING

**Definition:** Decision making is strategic and long-term.

**Action:** Creating a long-term plan and strategic legacy for a thriving community that addresses the needs of the people.

### **CULTURAL MATCH**

**Definition:** Systems reflect Indigenous culture and values.

**Action:** Building systems, projects, initiatives, and plans around Indigenous culture and values to help create a foundation for a prosperous future.

### SOVEREIGNTY

**Definition:** Native nations design and control their own future.

**Action:** Exercising Tribal sovereignty and practicing self-determination and self-governance. Native nations feel empowered to design and control their own future.

Source: Rebuilding Native Nations - Strategies for Governance and Development

