




Title: Minnesota Tribal Nations Government to Government Relations

Effective: March 2021

Policy #: 21-001

Owner/Division: Commissioner’s Office

Authorized by: Thom Petersen, Commissioner 

Policy Statement	The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) seeks to foster and facilitate positive government-to-government relations between the MDA and all federally recognized Minnesota Tribal Nations.
Policy Purpose/Objective	<p>The purpose of this policy is to develop, improve, and maintain collaborative relationships between the MDA and Minnesota Tribal Nations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing agreed-upon processes, when the MDA develops, changes or approves policies, programs, or services with tribal implications • Aligning with all state and federal laws, regulations, and tribal laws
Procedures/Principles	<p>The MDA will follow these guiding principles to promote successful consultation and collaboration between tribal governments and the state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We commit to meet annually with Minnesota Tribal Nations to identify priority issues for consultation. • When tribal officials request consultation, the Department will honor the tribal government’s request with consideration of the nature of the activity, past consultation efforts, available resources, timing considerations, and all other relevant factors. • We will consult in face-to-face meetings between the appropriate level staff to increase understandings of any proposed actions and enhance the development of effective outcomes and solutions. • We will build upon already established and on-going relationships between tribal and state officials. • We will consult with honesty, integrity, and transparency in the consultation process, recognizing that this is the way to build the mutual respect and trust that are fundamental elements in establishing a good consultative relationship • We will be open with information that may be beneficial or critical to deciding or developing a position. • We will, together with tribal nations remain flexible to attain practical and progressive solutions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the fullest extent possible, the MDA will develop and utilize a big picture view of issues to address broad-scale opportunities and challenges to promote and successfully implement government-to-government relations between the MDA and tribal nations. • The MDA will provide information and opportunities for state employees to receive training about American Indian tribal governments, histories, cultures, and traditions. • The MDA will empower state employees to work effectively with tribal nations and promote authentic and respectful relationships between state agencies and American Indian tribes. • The MDA will regularly inform and promote available agency resources including grants, loans, and consultation services to MN tribal nations. • The MDA will consult with MN tribal nations on quarantines and activities associated with invasive species that affect their land and communities.
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>Consultation – Government to government communication in a timely manner by all parties about a proposed or contemplated decision in order to secure meaningful tribal input and involvement in the decision-making process and to advise the tribe of the final decision and provide an explanation.</p> <p>Collaboration – All parties involved in carrying out planning and project development work together in a timely manner to achieve a common goal or objective.</p> <p>Minnesota Tribal Nations - In Minnesota, the federally recognized tribes are: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa; Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Lower Sioux Indian Community; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Prairie Island Indian Community; Red Lake Nation; Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Upper Sioux Community; White Earth Nation.</p> <p>Tribal Sovereignty – It is the right of American Indian tribes to determine their own future. Tribal nations possess all the inherent powers of any sovereign government, except those powers that have been limited or qualified by treaties, agreements, or an act of Congress. American Indian tribes, through elected tribal governments, have the right to operate as self-governing nations.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Executive Order 19-24</p>