SOCIAL MEDIA KIT

INDIGENOUS POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

NATIONAL NETWORK ASSEMBLY
SPONSOR

SEEDING SOVEREIGNTY
INDIGENOUS PARTNER
**Synopsis/Overview**

**Seeding Sovereignty** is working to amplify Indigenous perspectives and political engagement leading up to the 2020 election.

Our **SHIFT program** (Seeding the Hill with Indigenous FreeThinkers) seeks to decolonize American colonial-capitalism that perpetuates oppression, racism and poverty in Indigenous communities. **SHIFT** responds to the ceaseless assault on Indigenous communities, disproportionately coveted by the extraction industry and poisoned by insatiable greed for oil, gas, coal, uranium, timber, dams, Big-Ag, CAFOs and more.

Along with violence to the earth comes danger to our people—we and our cultures are in crisis with the highest rates of poverty, illness, youth suicide, missing and murdered people in this country. We are an active partner and resource to other organizations, individuals and media sources similarly working to end injustice.

Seeding Sovereignty is the invited Indigenous partner of the 2019 National Network Assembly (NNA), hosted by a coalition of grassroots orgs, which will convene hundreds of local grassroots leaders and organizers from across the country in Iowa, host to the first presidential primary, from August 22-25, 2019. Our organization will curate the Indigenous Political Engagement Summit of this catalytic grassroots political event to facilitate and bring 30-35 cutting-edge, active and radical Indigenous Turtle Island organizers to participate in a day and a half summit, to network strategize and build Indigenous political engagement.

**Organizer Information**

**Christine Nobiss**, Decolonizer with Seeding Sovereignty and Director of SHIFT, is the lead organizer of the summit and will work with NNA organizers to curate programming.

The summit will convene during the NNA and though it will require a day and a half separately from NNA programming, the participants will still participate in all other aspects of the full four day event, including meals, and evening activities. Indigenous participants of the summit who are also invited speakers to the NNA, will also carry out their planned speaking engagements at NNA during non-summit time.

The summit will begin in the afternoon of August the 22nd and concludes on the 25th.

**Media Contact:**

Eryn Wise, eryn@seedingsovereignty.org
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Indigenous communities have always honored their guests by recognizing their nations and customs, as well as their hosts, when they are guests in other territories. Our collective believes that it’s time we share this practice and invite others to do the same with meaningful intention and educated action.

Seeding Sovereignty has connected NAA with local Indigenous representatives to carry out a land acknowledgement during the opening of the conference.

Land Acknowledgments have no set time limit as every Indigenous community practices different protocols in respect to the lands they steward.

AGENDA | FRIDAY

9:20 - 10:20 | Introductions

10:20 - 11:20 | Speaker: Tai Pelli, Borikén Taíno
Presentation: Knowing your rights; using the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, other Mechanisms & Conventions
Description: Exercising our Political Power by understanding our Rights, International Mechanisms and Conventions. The importance of community education, train-the-trainer sessions as a tool to effectively address the issues that impact us and our future generations.

11:20 - 12:20 | Speaker: OJ Semans, Rosebud Sioux
Presentation: The Native American Presidential Forum and Increasing Native Voter Access
Description: An overview of the years of voter access and political engagement work that Four Directions carried out that culminated in the inaugural Frank LaMere Native American Presidential Forum from August 19 - 20, 2019.

12:20 - 1:20 LUNCH

1:30 - 2:00 | Speaker: Mellor Willie, Diné (Navajo)
Presentation: Our Footsteps are Sacred: Navigating the World of Politics as a Two-Spirit Leader
Description: Two-Spirit Leaders face unique challenges in establishing their place in the world of politics. However, their journey creates opportunities to pave a new course for building leaders and to make valuable contributions to the progressive political agenda. This presentation will share how a Two-Spirit leader, Mellor Willie, founded a Native Political Action Committee to help elect the first two Native American women to Congress. Mellor will share how today’s Two-Spirit Warriors are leading movements with authenticity and a new found strength from claiming their own voice and asserting their courage to make lasting and positive change for the next seven generations.

2:00 - 3:30 | Speaker: Mellor Willie, Diné (Navajo)
Presentation: Message Box Workshop
Description: Refining our messages for maximum impact. A native vote exercise with the National Congress of American Indians.

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FRIDAY CONT’D

3:40 - 4:40 | Speaker: Mahrinah von Schlegel, Tewa
Presentation: Using PACs to Support Indigenous Issues
Description: In this session participants will receive a brief history on Political Action Committees as a political entity, the different types of PACs, what they can and cannot support, possibilities and limitations, potential usages in support of both hyperlocal and national issues relevant to indigenous communities and individuals, and a walk through of how to form a PAC with a PAC-model canvas exercise to share with their home organizations, communities, etc.

4:45 - 5:45 | Speaker: Remy Fredenberg, Diné (Navajo)
Presentation: Direct Action Guerrilla Media: Presidential Campaigns and Beyond
Description: In the 2014 election for the office of Navajo Nation President, there were a few unexpected variables or wildcards if you will, that helped change how campaigns are run on the reservation to this day. Using traditional Diné governance structures and direct action, culture based guerilla marketing tactics these reasonable radicals were able to level the playing field by bridging the gap between young and old, traditional and modern Diné people. This session will explore all aspects of this campaign and how as Indigenous people we can weaponize our social media for social change to protect the environment on our continent for future generations.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 | CHASE LODGE

9:45 - 10:45 | Speaker: Joshua Gregory, Cherokee Nation
Presentation: Indian Country Counts
Description: Ensuring that the next decade of federal spending respects Indian Country.

10:50 - 11:45 | Speaker: Eryn Wise, Jicarilla Apache and Laguna Pueblo
Workshop: Questions for Candidates
Description: Group project to establish a list of questions that should be asked of every candidate running for POTUS in 2020.

11:50 - 12:20 | Speaker: Christine Nobiss, Plains Cree/Saulteaux
Presentation: Non-Partisan Conduct as a 501(c)3
Description: How to engage the world of politics during elections as a 501(c)3.

12:30 - 12:50 | Summit Participants
Debriefing
Comments and questions from participants and planning for the next summit!

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