

**NCAI Policy Research Center: Crafting a Collective Vision
for the Future of Indian Country**

Compiled Small Group Discussion Notes¹

Question #3: What actions and conversations are most critical in moving toward this vision? (103 responses collected)

-Natives are well-educated (teach, teach). –Huge economic development (politically sound). – High employment rate, education. –Natives are healthy and have long life span, role-models. – Healthy environment. –No poverty, no wars.

-Teamwork, cultural, communication, motivation w/ accountability, on anything that's important to Indian country!

-Tribal self-sustainability, economics, meth, cultural, safe learning, accountability, 0% tolerance on protection of women and children with full jurisdiction who commits these crimes.

-Media, television, relations. –Education: language, spirituality, culture, history, truth of our history, identity, sovereignty, treaties, healing (men, women & children), tribal self-sustainability, native chemical-dependency. –Violence free, drug and alcohol free, return and recapture traditional teachings and essence of our people for our children (sovereignty is an inherent birthright that can only be given through the gift of life which can only be come from sacred women).

-Try to instill traditional value into our youth.

-Educate Congress about our condition. –Educate local communities about our goals.
-Educate tribal members about culture and history. –NCAI needs to hire a consultant to formulate our message to the outside.

-Readers who are committed to reach these goals rather than their own agendas. Involvement of tribal community (focus groups). –Setting tribal priorities that are major long term goals.

-Getting involvement with our Indian communities: focus groups, talk to tribal council, hit different groups community involvement in tribal.

-More community involvement (i.e. focus groups). –Established principals for Tribal Councils.
–Code of ethics for governance. –Strong tribal constitution. –Educated, experienced leaders.

¹ These compiled notes reflect the notes from each of the three questions for the World Cafe small group conversations. We compiled all notes that the groups shared with us. At times, individuals wrote their names on their notes and we have added this notation. We made efforts to keep the responses as grammatically similar to the participant notes as possible. We did correct for spelling at times. The notes that are bolded have one or more word(s) that were indecipherable. There is a space between each participants or groups response.

-Larry (WI), Marlene (WA), Doreen (MI), Marge (MI), Alice (MI): -This is action! Read our thoughts! Read these papers! -Conversation brings collaboration! -Research the issues (who has what resources). -Acknowledge and use each tribes uniqueness and perspective on each vision. -Educate to collaborate, bring in cultural and spiritual views into our 30 year visions. - Allocate funds. -Educate the outside world around us.

-Collaboration (tribal-wide, government, local, state, and neighbors). -Motivation.
-Stable/constructive tribal government. -Personal investment/action. -Leaving this place for generations to come, a better place. -Education: all ways (youth to follow through). -Allocate funds towards priorities.

-Collaboration. -Motivation. -Stable, honesty, loyalty, commitment, personal investment in action to follow up with vision. -Education, academic, cultural, spiritual.
-Communication, collaboration w/ state and federal peoples of office and next door neighbor.

-A stable honest tribal government/council. -Allocate funds towards priorities. -Educate our youth to be our future leaders.

-Educate community and tribal through community meetings, members, tribal newsletters.

-Continue active dialogues on all occasions about our "visions" as opposed to this one-time afternoon event. -Conduct serious sessions throughout Indian country. -Figure out how to implement visions. -Strengthen NCAI's regional organizations to spearhead implementation and discussions on visions. -Establish Native American television/cable stations. -Establish Native-American Red Cross model to aid people in need to promote sharing.

-Diverse communication (tribal council and board membership buy-in). -Action plan, policy and procedure (result-oriented). -Continually refresh vision. -Understand your responsibility, accept responsibility, and be responsible. -Communicate responsibility/accountability: demonstrate, accept consequences, no blaming...only celebration. -Exchange information/partnerships.

-Personal responsibility/consequences.

-Complete the jobs that we start on. -Responsibility (taking). -Accountability (taking).

-More roundtable broad-brushed statements followed up with specific dialogue to refine vision into goal, objectives, and action. -Measuring tools to monitor achievement or success. -Refresh the visions and follow-up action to reaffirm and update the vision to guide the actions. -Forums and political will to find achievable common ground and solutions. -Responsibility and accountability for follow-up and necessary adjustments.

-Effective communications to determine clarity of views, actions, participation, ownership... - Heal from blaming past actions, i.e. atrocities of genocide, etc...

-Identifying what self-sufficiency means.

-Action-oriented. –Coming together-networking. –Continuous vision as the main focus. –
Complete visions/ideas/goals: following through.

-Change within ourselves.

-Many voices to embrace policy. –Strategic plan for achieving goals. –Who wouldn't endorse
healing and health. –Visions that go beyond tribal government vs. visions that are dynamic. –
Taking responsibility and becoming a mature community. –Getting out of victimization and
blaming: no instant gratification, we need work. –Partnering: w/ other nations, w/ private sector,
government.

-Making change within ourselves. –Sharing. –Being on the agenda at the congressional and
international levels. –Educating the children from the elders.

-Working together. –Getting out and taking a chance. –Having more native youths get out and
make something of themselves. –Be confident.

-Tribal communities should become more political and communicate better. –Become more
educated in tribal development areas. –Become less dependent on technology and develop better
skills in natural habitat/environments.

-Communication of youths. –Work with the youths. –Preparation for the future. –Water is a
huge issue with tribes and a main concern.

-Being united through all forms of government. –Maintaining traditional value.
-Healing. –Get and supporting our people getting into government. –Local, state.
-Ability to hunt and fish to survive. –Continue to strengthen.

-Being united with other tribes. –Teach young people to be proud of whom they are.
-Maintaining traditional values. –Healing ceremonies need to be done. –Support Native
representatives in local, state, federal governments. Also, international leaders.
-Extended hunting season for Natives. –Education from all sources.

-Being united through all forms of association and governments. –Involve our youth into the
settings language and culture. –Maintaining traditional ways. –Healing: how do we do this? -
Supporting our own government, state/federal/local, corporate America.
-International level, visible to the world-wide setting. –Strengthen and improve education, in
everything. –Recognize Indigenous rights.

-Conversations: sovereignty, community.

-Strategic planning with people. –Sovereignty, responsibility of the people, educate people,
parents, educators, tribal. –Make want to come home. –Judicial systems are non-existent. –If it
ain't working, do something else. –Have and have-nots coming together in business, buy Indian.

-Responsibility is to be sovereign for our young kids, youth, communities. –Educate our people.
–Judicial system. –Start with the youth. –Tribes working together, investing in each other. –
Central land plan, our communities and our culture. What’s the future to look like?

-The responsibility of being engaged and involved in the local, state, and federal election
processes. –As our issues are only going to be recognized and addressed when we as Indians are
players in the setting of policy and a constituency that is heeded by the non-Indian elected
officials at all levels.

-Natural resources have a code and legal system. –Healthy people: have prevention programs,
educators on healthy lifestyle, using tribal customs on healing.

-Marie -Codes for healthier communities. –Legal judicial systems. –Prevention/education. -
Language/cultural immersion camp. –Look up the “No Child Left Behind” Act.

-Look for and use modes of excellence for smart growth. –Build strong H.R. department to
ensure growth. –Stable tribal government. –College of post-secondary opportunities for every
student. –Get rid of separations that produce racism. –Pay more attention to the drug and
alcohol problem: prevention programs, treatment centers. –Better scheduling and availability of
language and culture classes. –Internet as vehicle for learning and communication. –Nutritional
food programs and exercise (rec center, sports, athletic facilities) to lower diabetes.

-Healthy people. –Own control over our laws and schools. –Native teachers with integrated
cultures. –Protect our land from outside corporations/entities. –Spirituality in education. –
Clean environment. –Consensus in decision making. –Working together.
-Land consolidation/trust reform. –Discussions with non-Indians. –Consensus building,
discussions with tribal communities. –Working with elders to create honorary ceremonies/sense
of tradition. –Creating process of education (non-Indian funding).

-To achieve an education (pre-school, grade, high, college, BA, MA, support with family). –
Growing pains, change. –Be open-minded. –Give exposure (move out of old way of thinking).
–Communication. –Natural resources.

-Actions: -Maintain and assist other tribes with gaming. –Continued protection of sovereignty
and rights. –Develop other funding sources. –Revamping the B.I.A. policies (i.e. tribal land
purchases be able to be put in trust, since it was in that trust previously).

-Greater tribal control of the B.I.A. –More tribal people in political offices (state, federal). –
Continued involvement of the youth (get them educated, bring them back to the reservation). –
Equal opportunity for all and all treated fairly, no stereotyping.

-Conversations: -More government-to-government relationships between the tribes (sharing
knowledge, network). –Continued dialogue between elected officials (tribal, local, state, and
national).

-More government-to-government between/among the tribes. –Work together, don’t reinvent the
wheel networking/sharing knowledge. –Improve discussion at national/state/local levels. –Pull
states out of IGRA. –Develop other economic development venues. –Revamp B.I.A. policies.

-Federal recognition- getting tribes to run B.I.A.. -Greater tribal control/involvement in getting more tribal people elected in state/national elections. -Stronger bond with youth; get them to stay/come back.

-Ensure tribal sovereignty/ rights are protected. -Preserving languages. -Equal opportunities, fairness. -Correct Native American history. -Less discrimination/stereotyping. -More parental involvement.

-Networking with other tribes. -More Natives in public office.

-More elected Tribal members in political office. -Supreme Court appointments

-Coordination with each other, with feds or other entities. -A better understanding of roles and dialogue about how the “helper” entities can actually help w/out helping themselves to tribal resources. -On sovereignty, even in the face of the written laws that bind us, tribes have to assure that the sovereignty that they have inherently and be the sovereigns the tribes are. We need not look to the Congress or the Federal courts to define our sovereign status.

-Talk and create with IRBs. -Train up a team of tribal leaders to be upfront specialists and points of contact for R&E. -Talk with Pueblo of Zuni, Northern Cheyenne, and Oglala Sioux tribes and their respective research entities on ?????? evaluation. The process, money, and “participatory approach” used in project as well as lead research organization working with local partnership teams.

-Leadership development. -Trained Indian teachers. -Holistic thinking.

-Education, identity, commitment, support. -Having enough dollars for community members. -Educating leaders, members.

-Cultural understanding and respect, education of traditional ways. -Education of a more contemporary nature (school, college). -Support needed, both community and leaders, to move forward. -Respect for each other, tribal and non-tribal.

-Education of who we are, cultural history, where we came from. -Education, academic, more than just high school. -Community, effective motivation of leaders, of cycle of education. -Elders, learning by being there. -On the job training. -Getting grants to help youth attend higher ed to then come back to the community and make it stronger.

-Tribal and national conversations to understand the complexity of education authority, funding, sovereignty, and government-to-government relationships. -Multi-generational focus.

-To bring to mind what was promised and to be consistent in the reminder. -Govern group as a tribal community, in your tribal way, not in the Western way. -Be strong at home, then when go to NCAI will keep it stronger. -Tribes have displaced at times their authority and/or responsibility. -Develop youth commission in two forms: one for newcomers and one for those that want to be even more involved. Possibly expand this group to be involved in worldwide issues.

-Tribal community listening/talking circles. –Tribal member individual responsibility, individual accountability, individual action. –Focus on the “home” issues: better discernment for lobbying and influence more directly and expediently impact US, county, and state legislative, and redirecting resources to support of global issue that will indirectly trickle down to impact our homelands.

-Financial resources: land (own), fishing, timber, tax, tribe to go to city drive away with Native. –Support from home to support NCAI. –Youth, understanding the resolution.

-Leadership development. –Staff resource development. –Group discussions, planning sessions, retreats focused on growth and development. –Consultant with tribal elders for spiritual guidance. –Ongoing conversations between tribal youth and tribal elders to preserve heritage.

-Communication, cooperation, education. –Identifying where you are: family source, service availability, common issues, uncommon issues, prioritize, building foundations, what truly is sovereignty? –Keeping youth council, to teach all of youth to pray and teach the language.

-Putting aside tribal differences (individual, family, and professional also). –Networks and professional opportunities for dialogues outside of community-only settings (i.e. conferences, gatherings). –Communities, agencies, and conferences (such as NCAI) need to listen to youth and incorporate their ideas into policy. –A system of cultural community communication needs to be developed such that everyone is free to speak and is not afraid to voice ideas (i.e. a new way of communicating other than traditional ways). –Accepting the validity of each others communities, individualism, issues, and experiences.

-Conversations with federal and state governments about tribal sovereignty. Traditional and youth need to converse on the future of our communities, empowering the youth to have a part in the development of your tribal communities. Tribal leaders, i.e. council, need to interact with its people. –NCAI youth curriculum needs to be adopted and included into the political process for the benefit of your future tribal leaders. –Bring leaders together to develop a long-term vision that benefits all Indian people, not the regional and issue specific interests that traditionally are formed. –Conversation between urban and reservation Indians that mends their relationship. The 50/50 split leaves Indian country divided.

-Dialogue at grassroot level. –Put aside historical differences. –Better understanding of sovereignty, state and federal. –Conversations between tribal leaders for the betterment of all instead of regionalizing issues. –Conversation between urban/reservation Indians.

-The Native American communities need to talk about what they would like to see as far as changes for the better are concerned and develop a plan for moving toward the vision. (i.e. alcohol/drug free communities, easy access to healthcare, internet access in all homes, skills to deal with domestic violence). –Conversations need to take place between the youth and the elders. At this time, the youth don't feel as though their voices are being heard.

-Being united through all forms of our government. –Empowering our young people to be proud of who “we” are, maintaining traditional values. –Healing all the bad things that have happened to us in the past, “let’s not dwell on it”. –Supporting our own people in state/local corporations, international. –Indigenous rights to hunt and fish. –Continue to improve education in all areas.

-Summit, working together (village, home, tribe, start in community). –Start in community: region, state, nations, community planning, issues and difference, strategic planning, target personnel, working with other entities.

-Collaboration/communal. –Empowerment: growth from within. –Fiscal independence and coordination between rich/poor and big/small.

-More active rehabilitation for drugs, alcohol and violence.

-Self-sufficient community. –What resources are needed? –Action plan and conversation. – Network of tribes using state of the art communications information technology: local, regional, national, international. –Develop policies and plans and legislation that move us to the vision: local, regional, national, international. –Establish government to government relations: local, tribes, county, city, state, national, international.

-More assertive and take action on our peoples, issues, concerns, and just talk about it.
-Must be “one voice”. –Government to government relationships as stronger.

-Create own network system within all tribes. –Mainly to have a better contact with different tribes, with the same issue or problem, so that we can deal or go through it.

-Networking with other tribes and government: unity, communication, experts. –Create own systems. –Strong economy. –Bill Gates possible \$ donation.

-Network with other tribes more often; being tribe together. –Create our own Native solution. – Create informational network connected to every tribe and reservation.
-Encourage natives to come back to work on information network.

-Political and economic clout. –????? people need to be able to substantiate impacts quantifying- this is tremendous need for the Policy Research Center. –Political mobilization for continues support of tribal sovereignty and importance of tribes to be able to self-govern.

-Education/culture based system. –More educated elections. –Respect cultures and elders. –Bi-cultural, continue education culturally.

-Biculturalism, bilingualism, education.

-Indian alone, Indian in combination.

-Information.

-Communicate with our youth/keep the focus. –Think tribal, instill pride spirituality.
-Prepare for the future.

-Youth communication. –Prevention of drugs, meth.

-Improve tribal relations between Indian and non-Indians. –Race: impact of racism or the future (Indian nations, tribes, citizens). –Build coalitions with non-Indian political groups. –Job creation. –Substance abuse and prevention. –Political action. –Indian health. –Indian alone/ Indian in combination.

-Improve relationship between Indians and non-Indians. –Racism is still prevalent and needs to be eliminated.

-Race relationship with non-Indians. –Discuss partnerships (political/economic) with non-Indian communities. –Improvement in health care standards.

-To recognize ourselves again to find the wisdom (etc...) to create right actions to move into conversations that would lead towards our goal. –Allow each other's ideas from one another and look into ourselves to find those and also look into values as well as cultural ones. -Help one another as a community to help come to this goal. Main goals are to have cultural values brought back and recognized. Also have people still work together to get all goals accomplished and also listen to all tribes, thoughts as one to overcome.

-We need to tap into the knowledge keepers of our traditional teachings and start training today's leaders to begin reapplying our principals in today's society. –We need to promote programs such as "honoring nations" that recognize good governance. –As leaders today, our words and actions must match. We need to walk the talk and set the example for the ones who will be leaders 30 years from now. –We need to train ourselves that being a victim is no longer acceptable. We need to create the expectation that you will take the next step and be part of the solution and be responsible. –We leave the education of our children to the larger society. We need to reestablish responsibility for the education of our children, one that is culturally based so that we in 30 years we will have leaders grounded in who they are. –We need to de-colonize ourselves. –We need to return to our traditional teachings and apply their underlying principals in today's world.

-Remembering that we a tribal community should be tapping into our own resources that we have established by using our ceremonies, traditions, and "listening to our elders". –Teaching the youth, bring elders who know our culture/teachings work with youth.

-Extending family. –Mental health. –Parenting school. –Housing. –Law-enforcement (tribal).

-Move those that disrupt tribal discussions from discussions on healthy planning. –Law enforcement. –Economic development. –State the goal to your people what the 30 year vision is about. –Strong work ethics reinstated. –Develop a political platform for Indian country identifying all the plans with a 30 year statement. –Protect the "poor babies" we

owe them survival. –Formal stability and health. –Youth to embrace native culture not non-Indian cultures. –Intergenerational stability and teachings. –Preserve native language with pride. –Preserve value system and world views of Indian people, be a “whole people”. –Education for all levels of family and community: parenting skills, preserve traditional spirituality, comprehensive enforcement and courts, comprehensive mental health, “Dogs with Hair”????? eliminate abuse, animal protection (treatment of animals reflects life within that family).

-Education. –Professionals coming back to the tribes to provide necessary services.
-Cultural preservation. –Self-sufficiency.

-What should our economic future depend on to carry Indian country into this future?
-Ongoing dialogue between tribal groups and with non-AI organizations.

-Need to keep motivating our youth to get educated. –Work together and get to know your tribal representative.

-Tribal communities becoming more political and getting everyone to be more educated on the issues and voting in every election. –Making our tribal representatives accountable. –Also to pay more attention to the elders and to include them in all your conferences.

-Plans, issues.

-Communication paramount at the first level of community- family tribal. –Ownership to the vision, i.e. family gatherings, community meetings, schools, court forum, tribal meetings, participation at all age levels. –Planning, informal, formal comprehensive plans and actions; tribal levels, commitment. –Strategies-plan for achieving, resources identified.

-Communication, forums, dialogue with all ages, healthy. –Action, commitment from leadership, commitment from community members. –We need to know who we are, identify before starting conversation. Calling on spiritual life ways: collective, collaborative, cooperation.

-Action plans: develop, define priorities, create vision, establish goals. –Obtain “buy-in” from tribal leaders and traditional leaders, accountability. –Define and set school performance: student expectations, establish support programs, build capacity. –Develop state/tribal/federal working relationships. –Hire quality, knowledgeable and competent staff. –Issues of tribes: make available to be understood by non-natives, to be effective advocates for tribes.

-Election or appointment of tribal leaders. –Keep up with a competitive plan or some sort.

-Listening and communication. –Rules and regulations. –Solid constitution, protect our sovereignty. –NCAI: what are you doing to help individual tribes building self-sufficient tribes or governments (i.e. lending or banking)?

-Sovereignty. –Treaties. –Education. –Traditional values. –Resources, natural.

-Human resources. -Media relations. -Health. -Jurisdiction. -Honestly/accountability. -Self-sufficient.

-I would like to see a tribal attorney representing each tribe, we don't have to wait for a non-Indian to represent us. -Strengthen NCAI regional organizations to represent Indian country. -Media: Frank Blythe, Native American network.

-Continue with education in all aspects (i.e. oral, etc...). -Allow tribes the flexibility to design programs to meet the needs of their own communities. -Flexibility in statutory and regulatory policies to allow tribal flexibility. -Continue the education of non-Indians.

-Coalition among Indian organizations. -Grassroots ideas/people driven. -Relationships.

-To convince our Native leaders in our country that we must act now and begin to plan for "real" that we must act today and not tomorrow.

-Communication, responsibility, accountability, decision-making. -Working as a team toward any issues that need to be addressed. -Local/community involvement is very critical. -Tribal members need to voice their thoughts.

-HIV prevention education is essential in Indian Country which is sorely lacking. Today, according to the Center's for Disease Control, Native Americans have the 3rd highest prevalence rate of HIV prevention. HIV does not discriminate and everyone is at-risk. A strong campaign on the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS is necessary to include in HIV prevention efforts. The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) presented a resolution that was passed at NCAI to include language in the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act to ensure American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians who are living with AIDS receive adequate treatment. Presently, Tribes are not eligible to apply for Ryan White Care Funds. With this resolution, we hope to change the Act in include funding for Native communities.

-Hearing our people express their visions, goals, and priorities; saying it is the first step to making it possible. -Stating and communicating our visions, public relations and communication in traditional and culturally relevant ways. -Establish priorities that tie to tradition and culture; e.g., "Children are sacred" so we prioritize pre-school education and daycare services, etc. - Tribal systems need to accommodate the participation of all tribal people; tribal government reform and reorganization must be undertaken to instill culture and traditions in day-to-day business.

-Cooperation, Collaboration, Communication-Nation to Nation, State to State, County to County, City to City, Person to Person. -Self-respect. -Total respect for all.

-Collaboration of health department and education. -Continuance prevention: diabetes, HIV/AIDS, drug interventions. -Sober living homes on reservation. -Foster homes on reservations. -Tribal schools and universities. -Environmental protection committees. -Investing gaming incomes successfully for long term economic development. -Assistance for elders in communities-food, clothing, shelter. -Continuance of safety enforcement of reservations. -

Flexibility to change without compromising culture/tradition, and language. -Incentives for youth to continue cultural development. -Family strengthening programs.