

**STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

2009 — 2010 WORK PLAN

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Introduction

The eight-member State-Tribal Relations Committee is unlike the other interim committees that have administrative rule reviews, agency monitoring, program evaluation, or the requirement to review draft legislation of agencies that the committee monitors. Instead, the committee has the following duties, as listed in 5-5-229, MCA:

- act as a liaison with tribal governments;
- encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation;
- conduct interim studies as assigned; and
- report its activities, findings, or recommendations to the legislature and propose any legislation recommended by the committee

In the past, the committee has fulfilled the liaison and cooperation responsibilities by visiting two or three Indian reservations during the interim and meeting with various state agency officials to discuss issues brought to the attention of the committee by tribal leaders and committee members.

Travel Schedule

Starting with the 2001-2002 interim, the first interim for the newly constituted State-Tribal Relations Committee, the committee began visiting reservations.

2001-2002: Rocky Boy, Flathead (and Northern Cheyenne Reservation?)¹
2003-2004: Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne Reservations
2005-2006: Fort Peck and the Blackfeet Reservations
2007-2008: Flathead, Little Shell, and Crow Reservations

Although the travel schedule for each new STR interim committee is completely up to the members, other considerations notwithstanding, the historical rotation would suggest visits this interim to two or three of the following reservations: Fort Belknap, Northern Cheyenne, and Rocky Boy. Members were requested to come to the organizational meeting with their preferences in mind.

Budgeting for the committee includes travel and per diem for two or three 2-day meetings expected for visits to the reservations in addition to three or four meetings in Helena. Travel is difficult much later than October or earlier than May, so visit dates are planned accordingly. Staff suggested dates for meeting this interim and members were requested to consider those dates and propose alternative times for ones that do not work well. The results agreed upon at the organizational meeting were as follows:

1st meeting: Helena June 29, 2009

¹ The official record shows the Rocky Boy and Flathead Reservations were visited but a member of the interim committee said the Northern Cheyenne also was visited.

2nd meeting	Rocky Boy Ft. Belknap	October 7-8 October 8-9
3rd meeting	Helena	January 14, 2010
4th meeting	Helena	April 8
5th meeting	Blackfeet	July 7
6th meeting	Helena	September 1

Assigned studies

In this interim, the committee has no studies assigned to it but may want reports (or presentations in order to be kept apprised) from other interim committees studying water issues, education, and health care or other issues of interest to committee members.

Target Issues

State-tribal relations intersect with almost every conceivable sector of governance. The issues that the STR discussed and agreed to prioritize in its work plan for this interim flowed from (1) members' concerns, (2) issues raised by keynote speakers at the STR's organizational meeting, and (3) opportunities following from legislation in the 2009 Session that either passed, failed, or was drafted but not introduced. The STR agreed upon the following topics (not necessarily presented in sequence here):

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	June 29, 2009	October 7-9	Jan. 14, 2010	April 8	July 7-8	September 1
Committee Interim Priorities →						
	Law Enforcement →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Overview extradition agreements; legal opinion [After other priorities in work plan met]: ✓Pharmacy drug abuse ✓Recidivism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Briefing by MSPOA: Decide if any action to be taken ✓IHS Reg. Dir. briefs committee ✓Dept Corrections discuss recidivism & training of inmates-- esp. Indians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓Cultural awareness in law enforcement ✓Civil rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested

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	Cultural & Historical Preservation →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overview concerns re: cultural properties & protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Brief committee on stakeholder meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sponsor reviews draft wording 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sponsor reviews draft wording; committee comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Final review of any legislation requested
	Education →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review Indian K-12 student dropout rates (including at-risk variable: pregnancy) ✓ Action by OPI ✓ Action by Vo-Techs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ OPI discuss drop out solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pre-workforce degree programs reviewed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As requested
	Health →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overview any health care disparity between Indian, low- mod income Montanans & other Montanans ✓ Research federal responsibility for Indian health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Further overview any health care disparity ✓ Decide if any action to be taken ✓ As requested ✓ Map the sources and methods of Indian health care in MT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As requested ✓ Federal Indian health initiatives reviewed; state & tribe readiness discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As requested ✓ As requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As requested ✓ As requested
Reservation visits & resulting work items		Rocky Boy's & Ft. Belknap →			Blackfeet →	

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					(Law enforcement): ✓Cultural awareness in law enforcement ✓Civil rights	✓As requested ✓As requested
			(Health): ✓I.H.S. funding issues ✓Pharmacy drug abuse ✓CHIPs update	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested
			(Education): ✓OPI discuss drop out solutions ✓OPI discuss charter schools (refL LC-625) ✓MUS discuss 2-year education for Indians ✓Dept Corrections discuss recidivism & training of inmates-- esp. Indians	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested
			Rocky Boy's liaison issues: ✓LIEAP funding dispute	✓As requested	✓As requested	✓As requested

	June 29, 2009	October 7-9	Jan. 14, 2010	April 8	July 7-8	September 1
			Fort Belknap liaison issues: ✓Fuel tax / road maint. dispute ✓Tribal-State Foster Care Program report ✓Briefing by MSPOA	✓Update on resolution of dispute ✓As requested ✓As requested	✓Update on resolution of dispute ✓Update on DPHHS foster care pilot for Ft. Belknap ✓Foster care in the Blackfeet Reservation ✓As requested Blackfeet liaison issues:	✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested ✓As requested

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