

Tribal Nations Leadership Council

CHARTER

I. NAME

This Charter establishes the Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC).

II. PURPOSE

The TNLC will serve to facilitate dialog and coordinate efforts between the Department of Justice and tribal governments, furthering the government-to-government relationship between the United States and tribal nations.

Primarily, the TNLC is expected to provide perspective on the Department's activities in Indian Country and raise issues that have tribal implications. Possible areas of discussion include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, civil rights, tax issues, environmental concerns and issues regarding sacred sites.

III. ORGANIZATION

The TNLC will consist of twelve tribal leaders, each selected by the tribes of their Bureau of Indian Affairs' Regional Area.

Each of these twelve regions will also nominate an alternate tribal leader who will serve in place of the region's primary TNLC member, should that member not be available.

A Chairperson and Co-Chairperson will be elected by and from the twelve regional TNLC members. The Chairperson and Co-Chairperson will have terms of one year.

There is no limit on the number of terms served by any individual TNLC member.

A. **Selection**

For purposes of serving on the TNLC, a tribal leader is defined as a tribal official serving in an executive or legislative position with a tribe. Examples of such an official include a tribal chairperson, president, governor, principal chief, vice chairperson, vice president, lieutenant governor, council member, or other equivalent positions.

The TNLC member for each region will be selected by the tribal chief executives of each tribe within that region. For purposes of selecting the TNLC member, a tribal chief executive is defined as the chairperson, president, principal chief, governor or other equivalent position.

B. Terms of Service

Each TNLC member will have a term of service of two years.

To better facilitate a transition of membership, the terms of the TNLC members will be staggered. Half of the initial TNLC members, chosen at random, will serve three year terms.

If a TNLC member no longer serves in the capacity as a tribal leader, that member shall be removed from the TNLC with the remainder of that member's term to be filled by the alternate tribal leader selected for that region. In the event that the alternate becomes the region's primary representative, the tribes of that region may choose to select a new alternate to serve for the duration of that term.

C. Transition from Tribal Justice Advisory Group (TJAG)

To better facilitate the transition from the current TJAG, the current co-chairs of the TJAG will be asked to serve a one year term on the TNLC. The co-chairs' positions on the TNLC will be in addition to the twelve regional TNLC members.

IV. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

The TNLC is expected to meet bi-annually. The Department of Justice will provide TNLC members thirty days notice of TNLC meetings.

The TNLC will make every effort to resolve issues by developing a consensus among the members. In the event a consensus cannot be reached, the TNLC will resolve issues by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting.

TNLC meetings will complement and not supplant any Tribal consultation process between tribes and the Department.

V. CHARTER ADOPTION

This TNLC Charter will become operational upon the signature of the Attorney General and may be amended by the Attorney General as needed.


Signature

January 26, 2010
Date