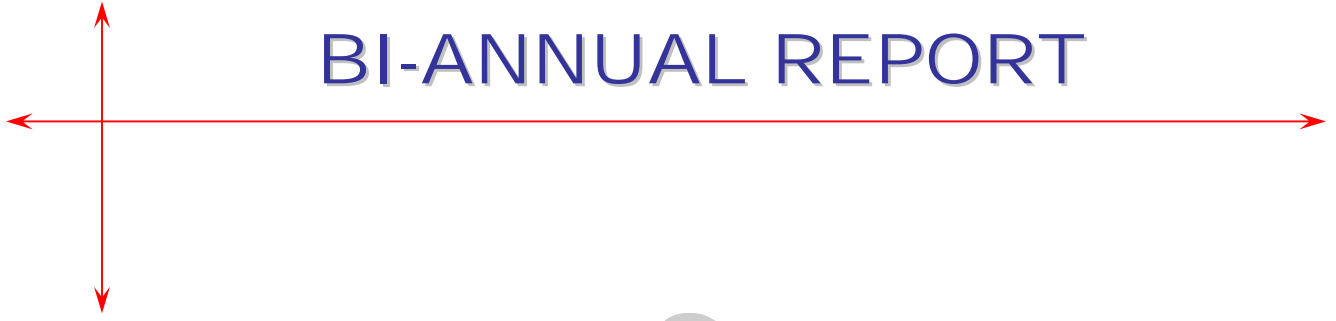


2006 CCIA

BI-ANNUAL REPORT



STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone: (303) 866-2087



Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

Dear Commission and Tribal Members:

On behalf of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and the various stakeholders throughout our state, we are pleased to present CCIA's 2006 Bi-Annual Report. As evidenced in this report, through collaborative efforts and expanded partnerships, we have elevated the Commission's presence and the advocacy of tribal issues to new heights.

The issues confronting the Commission and its members during the past year were extensive and varied, from development of an official reinterment process and expansion of American Indian Heritage Month activities honoring Tribal Elders and students, to preservation of tribal lands and cultural resources. All had potentially significant impacts on the tribes and were tackled head-on by CCIA members, committees, and staff.

Through quarterly meetings, roundtable discussions, extensive communications, and cultural events, CCIA kept its members informed and involved. Members gathered with legislators during CCIA's annual legislative breakfasts to discuss legislative bills, operational budgets, and measurable outcomes. Together, we continue to facilitate discussions, including legislation and policy level decisions that impact and benefit the tribal community.

As the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, I would like to thank those who have supported the important work of the Commission. Together we are making great strides. The State of Colorado looks forward to additional opportunities to work with Tribal Leaders to further address the needs of our Native American community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane E. Norton".

Jane E. Norton
Chair
Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs
130 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203
Phone (303) 866-3027
Fax (303) 866-5469



Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman

Máy-ku:

As the Executive Secretary of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, I am honored to join with Lt. Governor Jane Norton in presenting the 2006 CCIA Bi-Annual Report. In the last couple of years, CCIA has dedicated itself to establishing collaborative partnerships as a way to heighten awareness on issues pertaining to our two Ute Tribes, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. In February of 2003, Lieutenant Governor Norton stated that “we are dedicated to addressing Native American needs and concerns in Colorado...” and we have done exactly that!

As in the past, we have worked diligently to satisfy the statutory responsibilities outlined in CRS 24-44-101 – 108, tasking the commission with coordinating intergovernmental dealings with the State of Colorado and the two Ute Tribes, investigating the needs of American Indians in this state, and cooperating with and securing the assistance of local, state, and federal government agencies in developing programs so that full benefits are realized by the American Indians of this state. The 2006 CCIA Annual Report provides a comprehensive summary of the strides we have made and the important role the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs plays in strengthening intergovernmental relations and meeting the needs of our Tribal communities.

As a testament to the progress we have made in improving and expanding working relations with state legislators and intergovernmental agencies, the Commission was contacted throughout the 2006 Legislative Session as a liaison for the Tribes. Input from the Tribes on proposed legislation such as the State Smoking Ban, American Citizenship requirements by Tribal I.D., and for assistance in shaping a Senate Joint Resolution concerning budget cuts to federal programs that benefit American Indians, which was adopted by the Colorado Sixty-fifth General Assembly, is now incorporated into the process. Also, in developing programs that benefit American Indians in this state, the Commission, in concert with the Colorado Historical Society and the two Ute Tribes, developed a precedent setting initiative that has been an issue since the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act was established. This initiative reduces the amount of time that inadvertently discovered Native American human remains and associated funerary objects are returned to the ground, establishing a streamlined process for repatriation and reburial of culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains.

In closing, I am pleased to report that CCIA continues to serve as a model for other states interested in developing programs and partnerships geared toward Indian Affairs, as well as presenting programs that address the issues on the reservation. For everyone who has assisted in the projects, events, and assignments outlined in this report: Towaoc!

Sincerely,

Ernest House, Jr.
Executive Secretary

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Buffalo Feast
Dancer

CCIA FORMATION AND GOVERNANCE

In 1976, the Colorado General Assembly created (See C.R.S. §§ 24-44-101 to 24-44-108), within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA). The Lieutenant Governor serves in the statutory role as chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. The Commission was designed to be the official liaison between the two Ute Tribes and the State of Colorado. Legislators and Tribal Leaders envisioned a productive relationship between the state and tribal governments. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with the two Ute Indian Tribes in Colorado and the off-reservation American Indian people who live in Colorado.

There are eleven members of the Commission, including the Lieutenant Governor, the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services, Public Health and Environment, Natural Resources, and Local Affairs; two official representatives each from Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes and two at-large members who are selected by the commission at its first meeting and annually thereafter. Other state agencies serve as ex-officio members to provide advice and guidelines on the agencies' federal or state obligations affecting American Indians.

STATUTORY DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Coordination of intergovernmental dealings between tribal governments and the state;
- Investigating the needs of Indians in Colorado;
- Cooperating with and securing the assistance local, state, and federal governments in formulating and coordinating programs regarding Indian affairs;
- Reviewing legislation and amendments to existing legislation affecting Indians;
- Studying the existing status of recognition of Indian groups, tribes, and communities;
- Contracting with public or private bodies to provide services and facilities for promoting the welfare of the Indian people;
- Making legislative recommendations; and
- Making and publishing reports on findings and recommendations.

ADMINISTRATION:

Ernest House, Jr., serves as the Executive Secretary for the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.



UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe lies within the southwest corner of the State of Colorado. The Tribe has 575,000 contiguous acres, which span into both the states of New Mexico and Utah. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has 2,060 enrolled members who reside both on and off the reservation. The tribal administration is located in the community of Towaoc, Colorado and the White Mesa community is located in Blanding, Utah. Each Tribe has a seven-member council including the Chairman.

2006 Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council

Chairman	Manuel Heart
Vice-Chairman	Betty Howe
Treasurer	Prislenna Lopez

Council Members

Harold Cuthair Michael Elkriver Elaine Atcitty Gary Hayes



SOUTHERN UTE TRIBE

The Southern Ute Tribe lies to the south and east of Durango, Colorado. The Tribal reservation is a checkerboard reservation with tribal member allotments as well as tribal owned land dating back into the early 19th century. The Southern Ute Tribe has 307,838 tribally owned acres. The Southern Ute Tribe has 1,408 enrolled members that reside both on and off the reservation. The tribal administration is located in the community of Ignacio, Colorado.

2006 Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council

Chairman	Clement Frost
Vice-Chairman	Matthew Box
Treasurer	Michelle Olguin

Council Members

John Washington Ramona Eagle Jimmy Newton, Jr. Jocelyn Dutchie

2006 CCIA COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair

The Honorable Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor
State of Colorado

Mr. Dennis Ellis, Executive Director
Designee: Mr. Jose Esquibel
Prevention Services Division
Colorado Department of Health and Environment

The Honorable Clement Frost
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Ms. Corrine Lindsey
At-Large Member

The Honorable Ramona Eagle
Tribal Council
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Mr. Steve Moore
Native Americans Rights Fund
At-Large Member

The Honorable Betty Howe
Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Joseph G. Ortiz, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Corrections

The Honorable Ernest House, Sr.
Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe

Mr. Rick Grice, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Ms. Marva Livingston Hammons, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Human Services

Mr. Tom Norton, Executive Director
Designee: Mr. Richard Reynolds
Region V Manager
Colorado Department of Transportation

Mr. Russell George, Executive Director
Designee: Mr. Ron Cattany, Executive Director
Division of Minerals & Geology
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Bill Moloney, Executive Director
Designee: Ms. Pamela Jo Suckla, State Board
Member
Colorado Department of Education

Mr. Brian Vogt, Executive Director
Designee: Mr. Ken Charles, Southwest Regional Manager
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Executive Staff

Mr. Ernest House Jr., Executive Secretary
Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs

CCIA COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Member Name	Designation	Date Appointed	Affiliation
Jane E. Norton State Capitol Building Denver, CO 80203	Commission Chair	January 2003	Lieutenant Governor State of Colorado
Jose Esquibel Prevention Services Division Denver, CO 80246	Member	September 2004	Department of Public Health & Environment (Dennis Ellis)
Clement Frost Tribal Affairs Building Ignacio, CO 81137	Tribal Representative	1977	Chairman Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ron Cattany, Exec Director-Division of Minerals and Geology Denver, CO 80203	Member	1991	Department of Natural Resources (Russell George)
Steve Moore Native American Rights Fund Boulder, CO 80302	At-Large Member	July 2002	Native American Rights Fund

STATUTORY DUTIES:

<p><u>BUDGET: Fiscal records</u> CRS 24-44-103(1) (f) To employ and fix the compensation of an executive secretary of the commission, who shall carry out the responsibilities of the commission; (g) To petition the general assembly for funds to effectively administer the commission's affairs and to expend funds in compliance with state regulations; (h) To accept and receive gifts, funds, grants, bequests, and devices for use in furthering the purposes of the commission</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> CRS 24-44-103 (1) (f) To employ and fix the compensation of an executive secretary of the commission, who shall carry out the responsibilities of the commission CRS 24-44-104 (1) Two at-large members who shall be selected by the commission at its first meeting and annually thereafter. CRS 24-44-105 The commission may employ an executive secretary to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities and business of the commission.</p>
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BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Under the direction of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Executive Secretary Ernest House, Jr., effectively carries out the duties of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. Working with the State Budget and Planning Office, Mr. House manages and reviews the budget on a regular basis to ensure compliance with state laws.

With support from the **Budget and Personnel Committee**, the following objectives have been met:

- Established compensation for the executive secretary of the commission, who carries out the responsibilities and day-to-day responsibilities of the commission;
- Procurement of funds necessary to effectively administer the commission's affairs;
- Ensured that the expenditure of allocated funds were in compliance with state regulations.

In an effort to maximize budget and personnel resources, CCIA has also utilized student interns from local universities who have expressed an interest in learning more about Colorado's two Ute Tribes. Under the direction of Executive Secretary House, these interns assist in carrying out various administrative tasks related to the Commission.

To support the activities of the Commission, CCIA has also allocated budgetary resources to approved events, including the American Indian Heritage Month Celebration, costs related to the annual Legislative Breakfast, and the coordination of sponsorships for the North American Indigenous Games.



Tri-Ute Council Meeting, Old Supreme Court Chamber
Colorado State Capitol – March 2006

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Member Name	Designation	Date Appointed	Affiliation
Corrine Lindsey, DU Sturm College of Law Englewood, CO 80113	At-Large Member	July 2005	Citizen Advocate
Ken Charles, Southwest Regional Mgr Durango, CO 81301	Member	March 1999	Department of Local Affairs (Barbara Kirkmeyer)
Pamela Jo Suckla, State Board Member Denver, CO 80203	Member	September 2004	Department of Education (Bill Moloney)

STATUTORY DUTIES:

EDUCATION:

CRS 24-44-103 (1)

- (a) To Coordinate intergovernmental dealings between tribal governments and this state;
- (b) To investigate the needs of the Indian of this state and to provide technical assistance in the preparation of plans for the alleviation of such needs;
- (c) To cooperate with and secure the assistance of local, state, and federal governments or any agencies thereof in formulating and coordinating programs regarding Indian affairs adopted or planned by the federal government so that the full benefit of such programs will accrue to the Indians of this state.
- (e) To study the existing status of recognition of all Indian groups, tribes, and communities presently existing in this state;
- (i) To contract with public or private bodies to provide services and facilities for promoting the welfare of the Indian people.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

American Indian Scholars License Plate

Beginning August 1, 2003, Coloradans have had the opportunity to obtain the American Indian Scholars License Plate from the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce (RMICC). The purpose of this license plate is to generate funds to provide financial assistance to American Indian students attending a Colorado institution of higher education. As of June 2006, approximately 1,400 certificates have been purchased, generating over \$34,000 in scholarship funds. To ensure continuation of the American Indian Scholars License Plate program, we must sell over 3,000 certificates by January 2007. The funds generated from this effort will continue to provide scholarship awards of \$1,000 each to American Indian student applicants every year in November. If you would like to support this program, please log onto the RMICC website at www.rmicc.org or call the RMICC license plate hotline at (720) 529-4550.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

American Indian Heritage Month

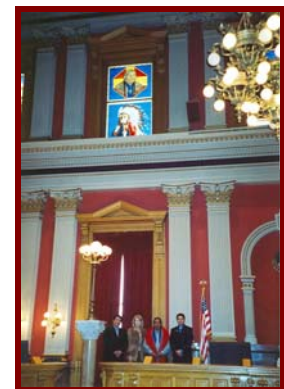
In recognition of the historical and cultural significance of American Indians in the State of Colorado, Governor Owens proclaimed November as American Indian Heritage Month. In addition, the General Assembly through House Joint Resolution 03-1052 designated every November as American Indian Heritage Month. American Indian Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the distinguished contributions Native Americans have made in our nation's history in such areas as government, medicine, education, religion, architecture, the environment, and the military. To commemorate November as American Indian Heritage Month, CCIA has held the event at the Boettcher Mansion Executive Residence. Invitees included the Governor's Cabinet, State Legislators, the Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the American Indian community. Lieutenant Governor Norton served as Mistress of Ceremonies of the event. In 2005, CCIA honored ten Tribal youth for their pursuit of excellence in education, culture, and language, as well as their continued involvement in volunteer efforts. This year, CCIA honored ten Tribal Elders for their continued and long-standing commitment to preserving the culture and history of the Ute Tribes through generational story telling and utilization of the Ute language.

Tribal Elder David Box is honored during the 2006 American Indian Heritage Month Celebration



CCIA Legislative Breakfast

The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs traditionally hosts an annual Legislative Breakfast for state legislators each spring at the State Capitol to discuss issues important to Colorado's Tribal communities. The 2006 Legislative Breakfast set a new precedent, with record-breaking participation. Over thirty state legislators meet with Tribal leadership and CCIA Commissioners to discuss a variety of issues and to learn more about the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. To showcase American Indian culture, authentic flute music was provided by Many Winds Music, with the Colorado Department of Corrections serving as the agency sponsor who provided the breakfast. Following the legislative breakfast, Tribal Leaders were introduced on the House and Senate Floor, with opening blessings for each legislative chamber provided by Tribal representatives.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Colorado Department of Transportation – Southern Ute Intergovernmental Agreement

CCIA and the Education Committee were instrumental in finalizing the Colorado Department of Transportation/Southern Ute Tribal Intergovernmental Agreement, improving communications regarding transportation projects that cross state and tribal lands.



Signing of CDOT/Southern Ute
Tribal Intergovernmental Agreement

Four Corners Monument Interpretive Center

In 1899, the Four Corners monument was created marking the site where the four states, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet. One hundred years later in 1999, Senate Bill 28 passed into Public Law 106-148 for funding of the Four Corners Interpretive Center. Public Law 106-148 states that each of the four states would provide non-federal dollars to match federal dollars to construct a Four Corners Interpretive Center. With assistance from Lieutenant Governor Norton, along with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), funds were secured for Colorado's commitment to matching the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal donation of \$200,000 for the Interpretive Center. The purpose of the Four Corners Interpretive Center is to inform visitors of the archeological, cultural, and natural heritage of the State and Four Corners Region. The Center will also promote the life, art, and politics of Native people who live in the region. The Interpretive Center will focus on the Navajo and Ute Tribes as well as explore the history of ancestral Pueblo people. In addition, the Interpretive Center will promote tourism and travel around the region including parks, museums, and businesses. This project is ongoing as talks continue between the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Navajo Nation in terms of development.

Brunot Agreement

On September 21, 1978, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the State of Colorado entered into a consent decree defining that Ute Mountain Ute Tribal members could hunt specific game animals in a said area in Southwest Colorado. The decree is ongoing so long as the game lasts and the Indians are at peace with the white people. Now for close to 30 years, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the State of Colorado Division of Wildlife have had a consistent working relationship with no flaws. Most recently, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has reviewed their consent decree in looking at ways to discuss with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, expanded areas of fishing, gathering of medicinal plants and herbs, and including other big and small game to the agreement.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

Member Name	Designation	Date Appointed	Affiliation
Lynn Hartman Cultural Resources Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc, CO 81334	Member	1993	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Ken Charles, Southwest Regional Mgr Fort Lewis College Durango, CO 81301	Member	March 1999	Department of Local Affairs (Barbara Kirkmeyer)
Joseph G. Ortiz, Executive Director Colorado Springs, CO 80906	Member	March 2003	Department of Corrections
Rick Grice, Executive Director Denver, CO 80202	Member	February 2005	Department of Labor and Employment
Jim Snyder, Field Administrator Grand Junction, CO 81503	Member	2004	Department of Human Services (Marva Livingston Hammons)
Ramona Eagle Tribal Affairs Bldg. Ignacio, CO 81137	Tribal Representative	December 2005	Tribal Council Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Christine Arbogast Kogovsek & Associates, Inc. Greenwood Village, CO 80112	Tribal Representative	1985	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe/Southern Ute Tribe

STATUTORY DUTIES:

PUBLIC RELATIONS

CRS 24-44-103 (1)

(d) To review all proposed or pending legislation and amendments to existing legislation affecting Indian in this state

(e) To study the existing status of recognition of all Indian groups, tribes, and communities presently existing in this state;

(i) To contract with public or private bodies to provide services and facilities for promoting the welfare of the Indian people.

(j) To make legislative recommendations.

(k) To make and publish reports on findings and recommendations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run

On November 29, 1864, Col. John M. Chivington led the Colorado Volunteers to Sand Creek and initiated a gruesome attack that killed nearly 200 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho men, women and children. The Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run started in 1999 to provide public awareness and continued education on the travesties of that horrific incident and to commemorate the victims and survivors. Since 1999, CCIA in concert with other state and local agencies, have assisted the Northern and Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations in supporting this event. CCIA has provided a proclamation by Governor Bill Owens marking November 23rd-29th, as Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run and Remembrance Days in Colorado.

Public and Educational Outreach Activities

The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and the Colorado Historical Society developed a “*What To Do When Human Remains Are Found*” information fact sheet for the public. It is important that individuals understand and follow proper protocol upon discovering human remains. When human remains and associated funerary objects are discovered on state or private lands, they should not be disturbed in any way. Colorado law is clear on this subject and anyone who violates the law could be prosecuted. Consultation among the Office of the State Archeologist, in consultation with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, and the landowner, will result in a determination to excavate Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, or other historic burials.

As the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, Lt. Governor Norton has incorporated articles of interest related to tribal issues, including the American Indian Scholars License Plate and the North American Indigenous Games, into the State of Colorado newsletter, *Stateline*, in an effort to improve and expand public awareness.

In addition, Executive Secretary House has participated in numerous student education presentations across the state to heighten awareness of American Indian culture, history and social issues.

Legislative Review

With CCIA serving as the liaison for state government with the Tribes, the Public Affairs Committee worked with the Executive Secretary to review, provide feedback, and forward recommendations on pending legislation. Legislation reviewed included the statewide Smoking Ban, a pending Immigration Bill requiring Tribal I.D. as proof of American Citizenship, as well as providing assistance in shaping a Senate Joint Resolution concerning budget cuts to federal programs that benefit American Indians, which was adopted by the Colorado Sixty-fifth General Assembly, to assess the impacts to Tribal communities and ensure that the best interests of Indian groups, tribes, and communities were taken into consideration.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Preservation – Valmont Butte

Since the outset of the Valmont Butte development issue, CCIA expressed an interest in participating in the process to ensure that the viewpoints of the Tribes and the individual members of the Indian community from the Front Range metropolitan area are taken into consideration in regards to preserving this culturally historical site.

Valmont Butte is located in Boulder County and has been many things over the years. It has been a training ground for the 13th Cavalry Volunteers, it has been home to an early community settlement, it has been a mill site, and it has a historic cemetery on the property. After decades of desecration of the Valmont Butte area, the Native American community is calling for the City of Boulder to give the Butte and surrounding land time to heal. CCIA and Lt. Governor Norton issued a letter expressing the concerns of Tribal communities to the City of Boulder, and have maintained an active presence throughout the City Council Public Hearings process. The decision of the city to oppose the proposed development plan was well received, and is in keeping with prospective conservation efforts advocated by CCIA.

North American Indigenous Games

Colorado's Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes served as sponsors of the 2006 North American Indigenous Games. This Olympic-style competition included over 10,000 Indigenous athletes representing delegations from across the U.S. and Canada. The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) was a phenomenal celebration of sport and culture for North American Indigenous peoples and, through the Cultural Village and ceremonies, provided exceptional exposure to over 30,000 people interested in American Indian heritage and culture.



REINTERMENT COMMITTEE:

Member Name	Designation	Date Appointed	Affiliation
Ron Cattany, Exec Director-Division of Minerals and Geology Denver, CO 80203	Member	1991	Department of Natural Resources (Russell George)
Joseph G. Ortiz, Executive Director Colorado Springs, CO 80906	Member	March, 2003	Department of Corrections
Terry Knight, Director Cultural Resources Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc, CO 81334	Tribal Representative	1977	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Lynn Hartman Cultural Resources Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc, CO 81334	Tribal Representative	1993	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Steve Moore Native American Rights Fund Boulder, CO 80302	Member	July 2002	At-Large Member
Monte Mills Maynes, Bradford, Shipps & Sheftel, LLP Durango, CO 81302	Tribal Representative	2003	Southern Ute Tribal Attorney
Peter Ortego General Counsel, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc, CO 81334	General Counsel	2003	Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Attorney

STATUTORY DUTIES:

<p>REINTERMENT CRS 24-44-103 (1) (b) To investigate the needs of Indian of this state and to provide technical assistance in the preparation of plans to the alleviation of such needs. (c) To cooperate with and secure the assistance of local, state, and federal governments or any agencies thereof in formulating and coordinating programs regarding Indian Affairs adopted or planned by the federal government so that the full benefit of such programs will accrue to the Indians of this state. (j) To make legislative recommendations.</p>

REINTERMENT COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

Under current federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and Colorado state law, there is no clear avenue for repatriating Native American remains and funerary objects found on state or private lands that cannot be culturally affiliated to a specific tribe. To address this issue, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) and the Colorado Historical Society formed a groundbreaking partnership this year and spearhead an initiative to develop the statewide protocol.

The four partners worked together under a National Park Service NAGPRA grant that was awarded to the Colorado Historical Society to host three regional consultations. Forty-seven tribes who have a legacy of occupation in Colorado were invited to participate. The consulting tribes now live in states ranging from South Dakota to Montana, and Oklahoma to Arizona, and many face similar issues in their home states.

The consultations resulted in a proposed protocol that works within both state and federal law to accomplish two major tasks: it shortens the time frame for repatriating inadvertently discovered Native American human remains and associated funerary objects found on Colorado state and private lands, and it makes possible the repatriation and reburial of culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains and associated funerary objects that come into the state's custody.

NAGPRA was ratified on Nov. 16, 1990, as a legal means for Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and items of cultural patrimony to be returned to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated tribes. The law mandates consultation between tribes and museums regarding Native American items in museum collections.

Years of work amalgamated on November 3, 2006, when the partners presented the proposed protocol to the National NAGPRA Review Committee for approval. The National Review Committee consists of seven members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to oversee the implementation of NAGPRA law.

CCIA was pleased to collaborate in a precedent-setting protocol that honors the beliefs of various intertribal groups who called Colorado home. This experience enabled our two Ute Tribes, CCIA, and the Colorado Historical Society to successfully address this culturally and historically significant issue.

This partnership and the resulting protocol demonstrate how effective dialogue among tribes, museums and state agencies can yield positive outcomes to ongoing concerns that are of mutual interest. The four partners and the consulting tribes will continue to build on this important agreement in future collaborations.

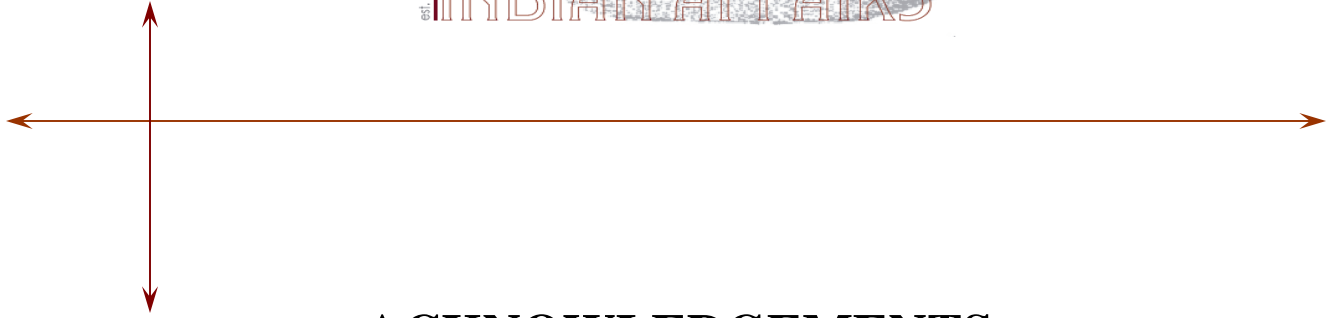
For more information about NAGPRA, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/>.

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs



2006 Calendar of Events

March	May	June	July
<p>CCIA Quarterly Meeting Denver, CO For more information, call (303) 866-3027</p> <p>Denver March Powwow</p> <p>Legislative Breakfast March 24, 2006 For more information, call (303) 866-3027</p>	<p>Beardance Southern Ute Tribe Ignacio, CO For more information, call (970) 563-0100</p> <p>“Walk of the Warriors” Southern Ute Tribe Ignacio, CO For more information, call (970) 563-0100</p>	<p>CCIA Quarterly Meeting. Towaoc, CO For more information, call (303) 866-3027</p> <p>Beardance Towaco, CO Ute Mountain Ute For more information, call (970) 565-3751</p>	<p>Ute Celebration Powwow Fort Duchesne, UT For more information, call (435) 722-5141</p> <p>Ute Mountain Ute Summer Cultural Camp Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc, CO For more information, call (970) 565-3751</p> <p>North American Indigenous Games Denver, July 1-10</p>
August	September	November	December
<p>Ute Mountain Powwow Ute Mountain Casino Towaoc, CO For more information call (970) 565-8800</p>	<p>CCIA Quarterly Meeting, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio, CO For more information, call (303) 866-3027</p> <p>Council Tree Powwow Celebration of Ute Culture Delta, CO</p>	<p>American Indian Heritage Month Celebration - Tribal Elders Honoring Ceremony</p> <p>NAGPRA Review Committee Meeting, Denver</p>	<p>CCIA Quarterly Meeting For more information, call (303) 866-3027</p>



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Consulting Editors/Writers

**Ernest House, Jr.
Susan C. Smith**

Graphic Design

Susan C. Smith

**Thank you to the following
individuals for sharing pictures
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**Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Colorado NAIG Society
Ron Cattany
Ernest House, Jr.
Susan C. Smith**