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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** I don't want to all come together. Check. Check. Check.

[00:00:35] **Speaker 2** It's just a hospital, but it ends up to be a place to have a kind of something.

[00:00:41] **Speaker 1** Oh, I like this, because then they all come together. We're for crying. Thank you. Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha

[00:01:03] **Speaker 3** if you want to go around, I think that's all I have to say.

[00:01:11] **Speaker 1** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

[00:01:48] **Speaker 3** You know you can't film from there when we're in session.

[00:06:25] **Speaker 1** Thank you guys!

[00:06:29] **Speaker 4** Not too late.

[00:06:30] **Speaker 5** Not too late, I was the people out and I hit the rack hard, like, I couldn't believe it. Oh yeah, yeah, it was up there, really early.

[00:06:39] **Speaker 1** How are you?

[00:06:41] **Speaker 5** I think we're going to get our...

[00:20:00] **Speaker 1** Thank you so much, it's great, welcome home. You made her, I know you did.

[00:20:14] **Speaker 2** I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we ask that you give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us this day our daily bread. I'm going to be talking to you in a little bit more detail about what we're going to in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what we're going to be talking about in a little bit more detail about what Thank you very much for your time. Thank you very much for your time. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:23:11] **Speaker 6** Please stay tuned for the rest of the video. Representative for the third year at San Jose, President of the grocery system, and assembly member for 2018, who's brought us a great calendar, a gift of his type, is Randy Jackson. Here he has the most wonderful reading of the joint revolution.

[00:25:44] **Speaker 3** assembly of the United Resolutionary Team. You are ready to act on your right to call the service of the Congress and the United States of America to our side. Where is our representative, Colton Johnston, the president of Roscoe, a dedicated public servant, husband, father, son, brother, and friend, passed away on November 4, 2024, at the age of 41? And where is Johnston and Roscoe, with the coordinates of November 25, 1983, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as assigned to two sons in the village town of Roscoe? And where is Johnston and Roscoe, graduated from graduate school, and went on to receive a bachelor's of care, constitution and ethics, family law, financial institutions, government and Congress leading oversight, mental health, natural resources supporting marriage, state affairs and government operations, regular court cases taking form, ways of peace, town speakers' task force on Alzheimer's and dementia, and the speakers' task force on suicide prevention. And we're asking all of these public allies for action. And we're trying to cross up all the relationships that this country has crossed party paths. We have working across differences in the title of working for working democracy. And we're trying to cross up the dedication of her today and what she's here to do. And we're trying to cross up the building of the Detroit-Canada Band Cross-Off and the devoid of competition, while we ask for the rock, the humanity, and the ideal.

[00:27:31] **Speaker 5** First, I want to say thank you to my family, my wife, Alyssa. I want to say thank you to my children, Arianna, Hunter, Noah, Naya, Aniki, Koya, and my own mother. It feels surreal to be out here in this very place, in this sacred place of Christ. They say that it feels a village where it's a child, a model of that village, and it feels surreal to be out here in this very place of salvation, for teaching me to respect my fellow Anishinaabe people, especially to respect women. I want to thank my ceremony man, my mentors, and my classmates. We know who each of you are. The support you have given me really does mean the world to me. Senate Majority Leader Lama- Lama- who? Lama- Haio. All around. Senate Majority Leader Asselby and members of the Senate. Assembly Majority Leader August. Assembly Minority Leader Duvall and members of the Assembly- Thank you very much. Tribal courts play a vital role for peace and justice. The protocols for WIUA, discretionary, discretionary, transfers of child support enforcement, and collections, healing to wellness courts, and peace-making mediation are all examples of justice, traditions, and a way out of health. At this time, I would like to recognize my fellow Chief Chair, James Crocker. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, President John Rupier. Thank you.

[00:29:44] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you.

[00:29:47] **Speaker 5** Hooray! Band of Lake Superior Tribute Indians of Wisconsin, Chairman Lewis Taylor. Thank you.

[00:29:54] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:29:59] **Speaker 5** The band, ladies and gentlemen, Indians, President John Johnson. We're going to give it a try for Wisconsin Chairman Zoe Iwate. Thank you.

[00:30:15] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:30:17] **Speaker 5** from the Chicago Game Chippewa Community, Mole Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Chairmen, Robert Benzada. How are you? How are you? The recognition chair of Ntasun Hill.

[00:30:34] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:30:44] **Speaker 5** This is Dr. Brunson, community band of Mohican Indians, President Shannon Harvey.

[00:30:50] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[00:30:54] **Speaker 5** Executive Officer of the Great Plains Indian Tribal Council, Brian Bainbridge. I'd also like to acknowledge my fellow St. Croix Triple Indians of Wisconsin Tribal Council members, Bernice Taylor. Conrad, with even a special mention of things, the Santa Cruz Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Mike DeCora. My name is...

[00:31:27] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[00:31:34] **Speaker 5** Mike and Peter, a lot of each contributing 20-plus years of service to our tribe. Together, Mike and Pete performed the Chippewa Federation, which is once again active, that made St. Croix an Indian country.

[00:31:47] **Speaker 1** I don't know.

[00:31:48] **Speaker 5** Finally, she, which, our St. Perish have all others, our St. Perish royalty, youth council, drummers, singers, veterans, friends, relatives, guests, and all others watching them. Today's gathering has proved a strong relationship that the great grandparents and ancestors knew that a positive relationship between tribes and the state and federal governments was the only strength in our communities. Our similarities, differences, values, expertise in culture and tradition enrich each other's lives. Our government to government relationship is forever... The 2015 census data estimated around 5.2 million people in the United States identified as American Indians and Alaskan Indians. With an estimation of around 86,000 tribal members residing in Wisconsin alone. Tribal nations entered into treaties with the federal government in 1837, 1842, 1847, and 1854, which established Wisconsin's reservations and territories in exchange for thousands of miles of our historical homeland. It's the protection and valuation of tribal rights and natural resources, education, and health care. Health care services are provided to our members through Indian Health Service and tribal-run health programs. Trust responsibilities to tribes required by the U.S. government to uphold its commitment in providing services to our people. Treaty rights and the reaffirmed by various court rulings, educational systems, social services, and more. Our tribal people are all citizens of the United States and members of their own sovereign nations, and we are very proud of this. Our love for our country and our home.

[00:33:46] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:33:56] **Speaker 5** I would like to recognize those carrying our place today. TBSO, Eagle Staff, Jeff Taylor, U.S. Marine, and Jessica Storrs. Let's thank them. You And for any of those staff, Bruce Taylor of the US Army, Vietnam. Thank you. And at his big display, Kylie Leite of the U.S. Army Reserve. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:34:32] **Speaker 1** In Wisconsin's play, Georgia Coveys are the losers.

[00:34:41] **Speaker 5** And our POW play, Hayden Edwards, US Army.

[00:34:49] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:34:51] **Speaker 5** At St. Croix, he's trying to get it straight. Near the end of 2023, the San Jorge Tribal government, a historical, secretarial election, has removed the Bureau of Indian Affairs oversight of our constitutional process. This removal, consistent with the government's desire to drop the parental oversight of our subordination, will also put an end to money-making. Our enrollment department and enrollment committee has spent the last year enrolling 765 descendants of the San Jorge tribe. Thank you. In doing so, providing them with great opportunities and services. Moving our relatives from descendants to tribal members has allowed our people to explore their identities and learn and participate in various cultural practices. Exercising with a minimum of ascendancy, we are no longer measuring who we are by being more committed to what we have. We are safe programs of our ancestors because you came for us.

[00:36:10] **Speaker 1** This is a beautiful movie.

[00:36:12] **Speaker 5** While our country experiences many long changes as our newly elected president, any federal administration transition is important that we continue to distinguish and differentiate this sovereignty from ethnicity. The Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Intergovernmental Relations state tribal relations describes it best. Tribal members are not ready to lack a follow-through, a program of respect, and growing confidence. Be mindful of this fact when it comes to tribal relationships. Ms. Berger sees volumes of the government-to-government relationship which has grown and strengthened between tribal nations and the state of Wisconsin in the past hundred and eighty-plus years. She bequeathed to her presence tribal and state leaders who have had a hand in negotiating many good things, many good things happening. Thanks for watching!

[00:37:12] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:37:14] **Speaker 5** And while we discuss their faith, it is no secret that there is some uneasiness surrounding the recent changes. I think it is important not to dwell on a certain thing. The truth is that we have been but navigated through some great administrations throughout history who worked hard to uphold treaties and responsibilities of civilizations, councils, politicians, and allies working tirelessly within and alongside tribes to defend and propel tribal rights inside. We are strong, cohesive, proud, intelligent, hard-working people. And we will continue to be there for your judgment. Be there for your elders. Help raise and try to continue these youths. Often you're a same-off. You're as best. Just one addition-off is still offered in this battle in giving thanks that our careers will recognize that and take pity upon all of us.

[00:38:08] **Speaker 1** Mm.

[00:38:09] **Speaker 5** So offer your tobacco. Give thanks to all that we have. And if you have not had a chance to hear that story, I would encourage you to offer tobacco to an elder in your community to tell the team. Because it is really smart to give them a story. As indigenous people, we will leave a collective responsibility to the world. We provide our people in many ways. I thank you. Thank you. The university acknowledges the importance of respect for tribal nations' sovereignty and has committed to the power of the tribes to manage their own affairs and resources. And by ensuring... Applause ... one day schools will teach more native American history, culture, and sovereignty. The inception of Act 31 stemmed from the violent controversy over our midway rights to steer fish in the 1980s as acknowledged in the Boyd Decision. These were the days of the ball at ours. Same a ball at yours, steer it in. While we remain grateful for the lobbyists who 36 years ago propelled this bill forward and mandated education on the missionary practices, We want more. We fear returning to a public education environment without Native American history and teachings. Act 31 is not enough. The truth will be, it has never been enough. It has always been the tribe's position that Native American history needs to be tied to our public school systems. We ask this body to collaborate further on Indian education and all of us. We thank the University of Wisconsin at Madison for bringing free tuition to enrolled tribal members. We ask it now be expanded through Governor Evers' budget to include full tuition waivers at other UW campuses closer to those of us enrolled in the country. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:40:31] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[00:40:32] **Speaker 5** The University of Wisconsin, life. We're creating so different universities. We're going to call it a night.

[00:40:43] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:40:47] **Speaker 5** Investing in both UW campuses and tribal higher education supports tribes and their students, and ultimately, don't be prohibitive. American Indian students from our traditional regalia have graduated.

[00:41:12] **Speaker 1** We'll also ask, or we'll also speak... APPLAUSE

[00:41:39] **Speaker 5** A kitchen has left no family untouched in Indian country. A kitchen rates amongst Native Americans are now four times higher than national rates. I've seen first hand paupoyas, and fed girls, and frogs, and birds, and grasshoppers, and spiders, and I smell bug spray in trees, and leaves, and people, and the sun, and ponds, and mosquitoes. They were biting me. I put the bug spray on, and they were still biting me. So I got so irritated. I love you. She left this poem written on a small piece of notebook paper at her mom's grave. In May 2023, my daughter's biological mother's life was taken too early from an accidental overdose of this deadly fentanyl. Naya's story isn't unique. All the doses have nearly wiped out a generation of our tribal nations' mothers and fathers. Through the regulation of medical marijuana in the state of Wisconsin, we can work towards moving people out of highly-addicted drugs, drugs which are killing our people. Recent data indicates that in this state of Wisconsin where cannabis is not legal. There is a 25% reduction in opioid use and overdoses. The Marquette Law School poll last year showed that 86% of Wisconsin registered voters support medical cannabis legalization. In partnership with the Indigenous Candidates Industry Association, ICIA, the Wisconsin Tribal Task Force on cannabis, and tribal nation leaders are here today in support of the 95% of Democrats. The 84% of independents and the 78% of Republican staff are also some of the largest employers in their own counties as well. Money spent in tribal nations is circulated back into local communities. Grant funds awarded to tribes of law for the hiring of contractors, consultants, teachers.

[00:44:26] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much. You

[00:44:29] **Speaker 5** Thank you. Thank you.

[00:44:30] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[00:44:34] **Speaker 5** We prioritize this initiative to provide these products completely free of charge across three counties to everyone because we believe healthy communities benefit us all. The partnerships we have developed along the way with local county programs and private companies are a secondary benefit of... I would be remiss if I failed to highlight and bring to the forefront awareness for missing and murder of indigenous women and relatives. A 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice found that nearly 85% of American Indian and Alaskan Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, including over 50 herby babies were found there in one year.

[00:45:47] **Speaker 1** Fair game. Emily, cut! Cut!

[00:45:52] **Speaker 5** and her remains were found nearly a month later, more than 80 miles from where she was last seen. This is such a tragedy. Her death in Indian country and her death is felt throughout Indian country and our thoughts and prayers are with her relatives and loved ones. Parents that provide shelter and increased mental health resources. We must do better. For every one of them, say their name. Emily Type.

[00:46:28] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you.

[00:46:43] **Speaker 5** He needs to improve our standards of water cleanliness to better protect our natural watersheds, which will provide better protection to geodude, our fish, and manumission, our wild rice. There is an increased lack of research on the safety of the use of chemical treatments to fight invasive species in the water. The appropriate sulfate levels in our waters significantly impacts movement growth. In order to improve sulfate levels, the state needs to find ways to reduce pollutants in accessing our watersheds. This involves better regulations of many things, agricultural runoff, chemicals, sprays, commercial waste. It faces numerous threats, including pollution, climate change, and habitat loss. Our partnership with the state in the protection and stewardship of our land has never been more important. The challenges are too fast to tackle. We must unify to secure the highest level of environmental protection.

[00:49:09] **Speaker 1** We're going to do a high five. We're going to sing a song.

[00:49:15] **Speaker 7** D-A-N-I-E-L-L-E, last name D-Long, D-E, capital L-O-N-G. And which tribe are you from? I'm with the Ho-Chunk Nation.

[00:49:29] **Speaker 8** Okay, thank you so much. A powerful speech this morning. Coming out of it, what are some of your first thoughts?

[00:49:36] **Speaker 7** My first thoughts are, you know, his end note, you know, unifying, standing together in solidarity and moving forward together as tribal nations and as, you know, state representatives. respect and honor of our unique relationships between our nations.

[00:49:57] **Speaker 8** in that unique relationship. He mentioned education quite a bit and he mentioned UW Madison offering free tuition to Native students but he also mentioned students in reservations and in rural areas may be concerned or intimidated about coming to school in Madison. Do you think there should be more offerings like this to other campuses to meet?

[00:50:20] **Speaker 7** students where they are? Absolutely. Education is power and in order to empower all tribal individuals we need to best serve them as individuals. So college is you know sometimes a scary and threatening thought to think that you have to remove yourself from your family and your community and spread your wings and go to a large campus someplace but having that ability to stay within your community and continue to learn and be educated and bring that back to your community or bring it out into, you know, here at the state capitol. So I think every opportunity we can provide for our students in seeking out higher education or even secondary education is beneficial in that tuition waiver. I want to thank UW for that is definitely appreciated and a profound step towards, you know, educational equity.

[00:51:15] **Speaker 8** I also want to ask you again about education. He mentioned Act 31. Do you think that's enough to get out the knowledge that students need to understand Native American history?

[00:51:26] **Speaker 7** Should there be more? Act 31, I'm extremely grateful for. Wisconsin has been very progressive in making sure that our children get their rights within Indian education. But yes, there is always more to be done. I think so much of our tribal and cultural contributions need to be recognized in more classes than just history. We are alive, we are here today. We have youth who deserve to see themselves in the curriculum, not only reflected in who their teachers or who their administration is or what their buildings look like. We need to have a wider curriculum that incorporates. You know, we as tribal nations have unique tribal relations with the state. And our students and children are. Every county, except for two within the state of, as far as whole chunks are concerned, except for two counties, we have whole chunks living everywhere and going to public schools. So they deserve to see themselves not only in every subject matter, but in every school. And Act 31 has helped with that, but also providing for teachers, American Indian teachers to get into that classroom because those relationships are vital.

[00:52:51] **Speaker 8** up in his speech and he also brought up the horrific era of the boarding school era and how language was lost. But now we're in an era of language revitalization. Tell me what that means to you and what does that mean for different tribes in being able to build community through language?

[00:53:11] **Speaker 7** Absolutely. You know, our language is part of who we are. It's intertwined within our culture and our identities. So, going back to education, this is one way that the state can help us revitalize our languages by allowing our students to receive credit, by having accredited, I guess, speakers coming in as those qualified teachers. But ultimately, revitalizing the language is an individual responsibility as Native people. We need to not only work on that learning ourselves, but get that support within our communities, within our tribes, and within the state's legislation. So I greatly appreciate his words today.

[00:54:02] **Speaker 8** He also spoke about MMIW, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and also children, which was also brought up. Where do you think there can be more attention to this crucial and dangerous epidemic that's happening in the Native community, not just here in Wisconsin, but on a national level as well?

[00:54:21] **Speaker 7** Absolutely. This has to be a priority. I appreciate that Wisconsin has a task force established for MMIWR, but it has to be a national effort. So many of our relatives... struggling with this. I mean, it hits home in every community and if we can't become a priority based on just our, you know, small population or... I guess we can't stand to be. status or, you know, have a percentage associated, every person matters. However, there are so many disproportionate numbers to our missing and murdered indigenous relatives and that task force needs to be prioritized with funding. We need to get news networks that are able to cover this and willing to cover that and just have communities because social media makes so much of our voice be heard. But we need everybody on board for that to end.

[00:55:26] **Speaker 8** And lastly, I want to ask you about the environment, especially with the new presidential administration. The environment is at greater concern, probably now more than ever. And caring for the environment in indigenous practices is something that's to the heart of the Native community. What would you want the state to know about preserving the environment and having that be central in kind of looking at policies, as they talked about with collaboration?

[00:55:54] **Speaker 7** moving forward. Absolutely, you know as Ho-Chunk people we consider ourselves stewards of the land and we recognize that nature in and of itself has rights and may not have a voice and so it is our duty and our job to advocate on that behalf of our waters and our lands and all of those beings and relatives so I think knowing that, it is definitely our responsibility. to take care of, as opposed to abuse and use for profits. We need to be mindful. It is a complex balance, but at the same time, the land and nature depends on us being aware and respectful. Not so much for profit, but more so out of respect of that reciprocal relationship.

[00:56:46] **Speaker 8** And are you an elected official within Ho-Chunk Nation?

[00:56:49] **Speaker 7** I am.

[00:56:49] **Speaker 8** I'm currently the Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President. And when people watch this all over the state, what do you want them to know?

[00:56:57] **Speaker 7** about Ho-Chunk Nation? I want them to know that Ho-Chunk Nation is happy to be here. Treasures, the relationship that we have within the state of Wisconsin, all of our communities and within all of the other tribal nations throughout, we are here to be of service and we are here to stand together. So please, you know, don't hesitate to reach out to Ho-Chunk Nation. We are not just solely... a gaming facility in your community, but we are a government and we are working hard to do our best for our people.

[00:57:32] **Speaker 8** I appreciate that. Thank you so much. Okay, thank you so much. Can I just have you slowly say and spell your first and last name?

[00:57:43] **Speaker 4** Jonas Hill, J-O-N-A-S-H-I-L-L.

[00:57:48] **Speaker 8** In which tribe are you from?

[00:57:50] **Speaker 4** Oneida Nation.

[00:57:51] **Speaker 8** And anything we should put underneath, are you an elected official within your tribe?

[00:57:54] **Speaker 4** Yes, I'm a councilman, council member, excuse me, council member for the United Nations.

[00:58:00] **Speaker 8** A lot was said today in this speech, coming out of it, what are some of the things that are still sticking with you?

[00:58:07] **Speaker 4** I think recognizing the tribal self-determination and that tribes have the inherent sovereignty to govern the programs and services within the nation for our community members and the approach of enhancing support for financial resources for the nations.

[00:58:33] **Speaker 8** And when he spoke of tribal sovereignty and brought it even to education, he even made some points that people don't even know what that is. Do you think there needs to be more than just Act 31 in the classrooms to really educate the public overall on tribal sovereignty, economic independence, and what it means that actual government to government relationship?

[00:58:56] **Speaker 4** I think it's important. Our self-determination truly explains our identity as how we can self-govern as a nation. Tribes, through Act 231, education is key for anybody within the state. Intergovernmental relations are huge as well, and they play a huge role with being able to gain support in the assembly, the state side, federal side. It's important that people know what these services do for our members, you know, I think when an elected official sees an approval for a bill or something, you know, they don't really understand that, you know, those are helping children and kids, or kids and families to get food on the table, to get to school, to get to work, to get clothes on their you know, those resources are huge for tribes.

[00:59:54] **Speaker 8** the need for more language revitalization, especially coming out of the era of the unfortunate boarding school era. How important is this moment of language revitalization, not just in Oneida, but in all tribes across the state?

[01:00:11] **Speaker 4** Cultural revitalization is huge, it's our identity, it's who we are, it's how we can be our people, you know, be us as people, a native people, by speaking our language, practicing our culture, attendance ceremonies, and being able to carry that on from our ancestors.

[01:00:32] **Speaker 8** Let's talk about the environment briefly. He spoke about the environment under the threat of climate change and also under the threats of the current political presidential administration. How important is it to maintain the environment in this time, in this era, when it's also has always been important to Native nations in the state? No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no Environmental protection. Let's go back to how important is that, it's always been important to the natives in America from the beginning of time. How important is it to maintain the environment, especially at this time in the face of climate change?

[01:01:31] **Speaker 4** Climate change is real. We're seeing the effects. Maple season is in full effect right now, and the sap is running slow, duly because we haven't had a real hard winter hit us for some time. The wildlife and trees all depend on the environment. And as Native people, we take it on this role. We give thanks in our prayer through prayer. for everything, starting from Mother Earth all the way to the sky, and we give thanks for everything. And we also are the voice for those beings that don't have that voice. So a lot of us Native Americans, we advocate for all those beings that don't have that voice. And through environmental protection and being able to raise awareness for climate change, we are doing that.

[01:02:25] **Speaker 8** He also mentioned gaming and there have been positive strides in gaming in terms of employment. Can you talk to me how gaming has impacted in the United Nations and the strides that they're making in helping natives in the community get and sustain employment?

[01:02:42] **Speaker 4** Indian Gaming was the best thing that's ever helped native nations in the state of Wisconsin and in the Indian country overall. Without Indian Gaming, we wouldn't be able to provide resources to members, we wouldn't be able to send people to school, our members to school, we wouldn't be able to provide services. We wouldn't be here right now without Indian Gaming. Indian Gaming, for us, is one of the largest employers in our area. We provide free healthcare for every member that works for us, not just a member, but anybody.

[01:03:18] **Speaker 8** Thank you.

[01:03:20] **Speaker 4** It's huge. It plays a huge role. So, Oneida has some of the highest educated individuals in Brown County. And without them, we wouldn't have been able to be proud of that statistic.

[01:03:37] **Speaker 8** And once we finish up, everyone in the state is going to watch this. It's going to air on Friday. What do you want them to know about Oneida Nation?

[01:03:44] **Speaker 4** United Nation. We are here. We're here to support our brothers and sisters and relatives as they advocate for rights that affect their area, but not only their area, but affect us all as a whole and native of any country.

[01:04:03] **Speaker 8** Thank you so much.

[01:04:04] **Speaker 4** Yes, thank you.

[01:04:08] **Speaker 8** I'm just wondering if they might be done there. Mr. Speaker. Sound good? Thank you for this interview today. Can I just have you slowly say and spell? your first and last name please. Apache Danforth, A-P-A-C-H-E-D-A-N-F-O-R-T-H. What tribe are you from? I'm from the Oneida Nation. Thank you so much for this today. He spoke about the significance of students being able to wear their traditional regalia at their high school ceremonies and that's for students to be okay and comfortable with that as part of their identity. Tell me about what you think about what he said about that today. Well, it definitely is very important, and it's a right that I think that our people have been advocating for for many, many years, so it's not a new issue, however, it continues to be an issue, so just recognizing that graduation is a milestone for many of our young people, and they, you know, many of the first ones graduating from high school their family. So wearing the traditional regalia really honors that tradition. of accomplishment and a lot of times the regalia is an heirloom from a family so it also represents their family and what their success for their family and representing their family. I know that a lot of states have already passed legislation allowing students to wear traditional regalia and I think that the state of Wisconsin can follow suit and do the same. to help protect our Indigenous students here in our state and allow them to wear that regalia, allow them to have that accolade and to represent our people in that way. It really promotes an inclusive culture. I also want to ask you about, we did that really good, that was perfect timing.

[01:06:05] **Speaker 4** I've never seen this before.

[01:06:09] **Speaker 8** I want to ask you about cannabis regulation in this state. You mentioned the statistics, 86% of Wisconsinites say they're in favor for it. What do you think about that and how would it specifically impact native people here in Wisconsin? I think there's two sides of the coin on cannabis and I think that the legislator in many ways is right to kind of be careful in producing legislation that allows for the regulation of cannabis in our state, however it is an economic tool that the tribes can use to build our communities and fund many programs that help our communities, society. However, it has to be done with caution. I really encourage them to think about our kids when they're looking at legislation and legalizing cannabis in our state and how they're protecting our children from abusing and using and having access to cannabis. However, in terms of plant medicine, definitely we've all seen the studies. It can definitely be a tool that helps our people, you know, escape addiction, pain management so that we don't have to get, you know, pharmaceuticals and heart opioids and fentanyl and all these things to help regulate our pain, so that we're understanding that it is a plant medicine and it is important, it is spiritual in many ways, and respecting that, so respecting that spiritual part of the plant medicine, but also being aware that, you know, it can be abused. What are we doing to protect children in these cases from having access to it and becoming addicted in that way as well? So what do you think right now with all the issues presented? Education, cannabis regulation, missing and murdering indigenous women. What would your opinion say is what's next? What do the states really, the tribes are gonna do? push with the state? That is a tough question because they're all equally as important. Let me think. So they're all equally as important. Missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives is certainly critical in our state and you have to look at where we are. We're located between Chicago, we're located between Duluth where that's a major international hub with Freights coming in and out of there and then just being that just having that human trafficking trail through our state and human trafficking, we know, is directly related to MMIW. We know that human trafficking is more leakative than drugs because you don't have to read up on a human. You can use that person over and over. I worked on Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Project in the state and interviewed a forensic nurse out of Rock County and she told us that Milwaukee is... Pimpe University, people come to Milwaukee to learn how to dehumanize. That's in our state and so you know we can't say that the issue is not real, the issue is real from the top. The other incredibly important issue to our people is protecting the water, protecting our waterways. So we have the biggest watershed in the world, one of the biggest watersheds in the world with Lake Superior and the Great Lakes. What are we doing to protect them? I know what the tribes are doing to protect them. So tribes, you know, and he said it in the speech, Chairman Fowler said in the speech that that is our inherent responsibility to protect our earth and protect our waterways. So all of our legislation, all of our environmental projects are to do that. to not only protect them, but to enhance them through, you know, water restoration projects and things of that nature. But I think it's critical that the tribes and the state work together to protect our waterways. Collaboration. Yes, absolutely. So I think that, like you said, there's a lot of issues that President Fowler, Chairman Fowler brought up that are as important to tribes as they should be to the state in that working together in collaboration is definitely what we need to do and having these addresses every year and gathering and and seeing our representatives, our state representatives on the floor and supporting our chairperson at the time who's giving the speech and standing up and giving applause for certain issues and it's really refreshing to see that they support us like that. So having these events in this particular state of the tribes address is critical to the state tribal relations and continuing good relationships. Absolutely, thank you so much. Great interview. Thank you. Thank you.