



# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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## **25th Navajo Nation Council advocates for federal priorities at Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting**



**PHOTO: 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, and Navajo Area BIA Director Greg Mehojah at the Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting in Niagara Falls, N.Y. on August 3, 2023.**

**NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.** – Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren advocated for key priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget during a two-day meeting with the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC), which is comprised of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions.

The quarterly TIBC meetings provide a forum and process for tribal nations and federal officials to work together in developing annual budget requests for programs under the U.S. Department of the Interior. Several Navajo Nation funding priorities include public safety, infrastructure including roads, educational and scholarship funding, and forward funding for critical programs to help in the event of federal government shutdowns.

“Having our Nation’s leaders and technical experts at the table and speaking with a united voice sends a very powerful message to our federal partners. Our community members across the Navajo Nation are the most impacted by federal funding and we are helping to ensure that our communities don’t lose any federal funding and that we continue to see funding allocated where we need it the most. My colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council are very

committed to working with the BIA, DOI, and other agencies to ensure that our voices make a positive impact,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain).

For the Navajo Area Region, Speaker Curley and President Nygren serve as the Navajo Nation’s primary representatives on the Tribal Interior Budget Council. They were joined by Navajo Nation Washington Office Executive Director Justin Ahasteen, and Navajo Area BIA Director Greg Mehojah.

Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) serves as the co-chair of TIBC’s Public Safety and Justice Sub-committee and was also selected to serve on the Data Sub-committee during last week’s meetings. Council Delegate Nathan Notah (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl’a’a’) serves on the Land, Water, and Natural Resources Sub-Committee, Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie (Dilcon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone, Greasewood Springs) serves on the Public Safety and Justice Sub-Committee, and Council Delegate Otto Tso (To’Nanees Dizi) serves as the co-chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee. They were also joined by Shawna Becenti, the Head of School for Navajo Preparatory School, who serves on the Education Sub-Committee.

Council members also spoke in support of several resolutions presented to the TIBC related to increased funding for public safety, requesting the federal agencies to share funding formulas with the tribes, and for forward funding for programs under the Bureau of Indian Education. Another critical resolution calls for all BIA programs to receive mandatory funding to avoid disruptions in services for tribes.

The Navajo Nation also continues to advocate for advanced funding for critical programs and services to prevent disruption in services for the Navajo people. Council members also requested additional funds for school safety, public safety operations and maintenance, and road infrastructure.

The Navajo Nation Council thanks the Navajo Nation Washington Office, Navajo Area Regional BIA, and all of the tribal leaders for their support and input at the Tribal Interior Budget Council meetings. For more information about the Tribal Interior Budget Council, please visit: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/obpm/tibc>.

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