

National Congress of American Indians



State
of
Indian
NATIONS

Virtual Event | February 22, 2021

DELIVERED BY
President Fawn Sharp
with Congressional Response

LIVE Streaming Event



YouTube



LIVE

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ABOUT STATE OF INDIAN NATIONS

The State of Indian Nations (SOIN) speech outlines the goals of tribal leaders, the opportunities for success and advancement of Native peoples, and priorities to advance our nation-to-nation relationship with the United States. Each year, the President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) presents the State of Indian Nations address to members of Congress, government officials, tribal leaders and citizens, and the American public. To facilitate direct engagement between Congress and Tribal Nations, a member of Congress is invited each year to deliver a Congressional Response to the State of Indian Nations. The speech is delivered to a live audience in Washington, D.C. and broadcast across the nation and around the globe to policymakers, citizens, and students.

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EVENT AGENDA

2:30 p.m. EST

Opening Remarks

Chairperson Aaron Payment, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, NCAI First Vice-President

2:35 p.m. EST

Invocation

Councilor Tina Abrams, Seneca Nation of Indians, NCAI Regional Vice President

2:40 p.m. EST

State of Indian Nations

President Fawn Sharp, Quinault Indian Nation, NCAI President

3:10 p.m. EST

Congressional Response

Senator Lisa Murkowski

3:25 p.m. EST

Question & Answer Session

3:40 p.m. EST

Closing Remarks

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SPEAKER BIOS



NCAI President Fawn R. Sharp

Fawn R. Sharp serves as the 23rd President of the National Congress of American Indians. President Sharp is the third woman to hold the position of NCAI President, and this year will mark her second delivery of the State of Indian Nations Address. President Sharp also serves as President of the Quinault Indian Nation in Taholah, Washington. She has held numerous other leadership positions, including an appointment by Governor Gary Locke to serve as Trustee for Grays Harbor College, Governor of the Washington State Bar Association, Trustee of Washington State Bar Association – Indian Law Section, Vice President and Founding Member for the National Intertribal Tax Alliance, and Director/Secretary of the Quinault Nation Enterprises Board.

[Read President Sharp's full biography >](#)



NCAI First Vice President Aaron Payment

Chairperson Aaron Payment is serving in his second term as Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. With 42,000 members, his tribe is the largest east of the Mississippi. He has served as a Tribal Council Member, Vice-Chairperson, and is now in his second four-year term as Chairperson. Chairperson Payment has been in tribal elective office for nearly 14 years. Prior to serving as Chairperson, he worked in higher education directly serving fellow Native Americans.

[Read Vice President Payment's full biography >](#)

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SPEAKER BIOS



Councilor Tina Abrams

Tina Abrams is an enrolled member from the Seneca Nation Territory, wolf clan. She has been the Seneca Nation Councilor since 2001, serving as co-chair of the Council since 2012. As the former Director of Seneca Nation Class II operations for eight years, she has also served as co-chair of the annual Veteran's Powwow since 2014. Councilor Abrams is also a member of the Seneca Nation Athletic Commission, a member of Defend Ohi:yo' (protecting our Allegheny River), and has been a delegate of the National Indian Gaming Association for six years. She has been an NCAI delegate and alternate since 2014, is the current Northeast Area Vice President of NCAI, and a member of the NCAI Covid Task Force.



Senator Lisa Murkowski, Congressional Response

Lisa Ann Murkowski is an American politician serving as the senior United States Senator from Alaska, having held that seat since 2002. Murkowski is the second-most senior Republican woman in the Senate, after Susan Collins from Maine. Murkowski serves as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and is a member of both the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. During her tenure, Senator Murkowski has earned a reputation for her ability to work collaboratively and across the aisle to reach common sense solutions.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow National Congress of American Indians
@NCAI1944



During the event, share a photo of your watch party using the hashtag #SOIN2021.

Looking Back on the State of Indian Nations:

2020 State of Indian Nations
[Watch the speech>](#)

2019 State of Indian Nations
[Watch the speech>](#)

2018 State of Indian Nations
[Watch the speech>](#)

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State of Indian Nations

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EXAMPLE MESSAGES

During the event, share a photo of your watch party using the hashtag #SOIN2021 and tag @NCAI1944.

Join @NCAI1944 and thousands across the nation hosting watch parties for the State of Indian Nations address. Be a part of history in the making! #SOIN2021 live- happening now.

Let your followers know that you are planning on hosting a watch party! Don't forget to use the hashtag #SOIN2021.

NCAI1944's State of Indian Nations is taking place LIVE right now. Tune in and watch as #IndianCountry takes the center stage. #SOIN2021

Encourage your followers to be engaged and watch live!

Tune into #SOIN2021 and learn about some of #IndianCountry's priorities and hear how members of Congress plan to address them live.

Use this time as an opportunity to educate about Indian Country, or share information about your organization.

Don't forget to prepare questions ahead of time for the live Q&A session starting at 3:25 p.m. EST.

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**DOWNLOADABLE
CONTENT**

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