



Wabanaki Alliance

WHO WE ARE

In June 2020, the Mi'kmaq Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Penobscot Nation created the Wabanaki Alliance to educate the people of Maine about the need for securing the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations. Tribal sovereignty is the inherent right of tribes to govern themselves.

WHY?

In 1980, the State of Maine initially passed the Maine Implementing Act. Importantly, this law would not take effect until Congress ratified it. That is because under the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3) the federal government has the primary authority to conduct relations with Indian tribes, not the states. Later, Congress passed and President Jimmy Carter signed the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA). Together, the two acts encompass the overall settlement agreement. Though the acts were touted as innovative new approaches superior to existing federal Indian law at the time, they have mostly failed to achieve many of their promises, as Wabanaki citizens have largely fallen behind their peers in Indian Country. Now, the Wabanaki Nations are treated less than the more than 500 other federally recognized tribes in America. The Wabanaki are not asking for special privileges. They are asking for fairness. . During the last three legislative sessions (129th, 130th, and 131st), the Wabanaki Alliance's highest priority has been enacting the recommendations from the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Wabanaki Alliance tracks a number of federal and state bills related to the Wabanaki Nations, informing and mobilizing tribal citizens and allies on a range of priority legislation. Thanks in part to committed supporters, we've made progress changing laws and even the Maine Constitution! Most recently, in the last legislative session we enacted seven more state bills into law, including:

LD 2007 expands criminal jurisdiction for Wabanaki Nations providing powers necessary to strengthen Wabanaki communities and recognizes the exclusive authority of the Penobscot Nation to regulate drinking water.

LD 1835 clarifies State of Maine requirements to notify Wabanaki Nations when changes are made to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act, or other acts of Congress and that such changes cannot take effect without the approval of the relevant tribal government.

Please see more results on the next page.

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LD 1642 strengthens the landmark legislation passed in 2001 that requires Maine schools to teach K-12 students about the Wabanaki.

LD 78 proposed an amendment to restore language regarding Maine Indian treaty obligations to all printed copies of the Maine Constitution. The Legislature passed the resolution and in November 2023, Maine voters overwhelmingly approved the constitutional amendment.

LD 229 adds tribal governments to an existing state law regarding reimbursement for law enforcement training.

LD 1620 was historic legislation that achieved parity for the Mi'kmaq Nation with the other Wabanaki tribes in Maine. Since 1991 when the Mi'kmaq gained federal recognition, the tribe had been the only Wabanaki Nation without an agreed-upon jurisdictional arrangement with Maine.

LD 1970 codifies in state law protections currently guaranteed under the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act.

In addition to our legislative advocacy, we've educated tens of thousands of people through our website, social media posts, and the recently published Wabanaki Alliance Media and Style Guide.

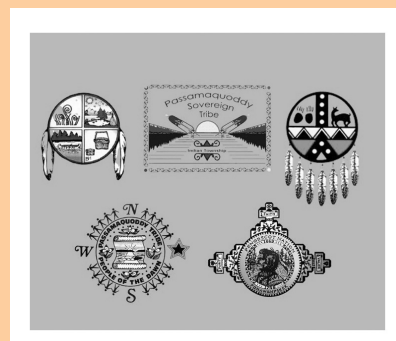
While pleased with these victories, we'll be working in the upcoming legislative session to enact more of the Task Force recommendations to fix the flawed Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

Find details on current priority bills in the Maine Legislature in our online Bill Tracker at:
<https://www.wabanakialliance.com/legislative-bill-tracker>



We need your support to make more successes happen:

- If you are a **business or organization** please ask about joining the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition:
<http://www.wabanakialliance.com/coalition/>
- If you are an individual please join the Wabanaki Alliance as a supporter:
<http://www.wabanakialliance.com/email-list>
- If you would like to make a donation: Use the QR code below or
<http://www.wabanakialliance.com/donate>



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Wabanaki Alliance



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