

Formation of a Rural-Tribal Alliance

Native and non-Native Northeast Minnesotans share many of the same challenges and opportunities, and an alliance could open new pathways for dialogue.

THE CHALLENGE

- Colonization, assimilation, and differing values have created lasting mistrust between Tribal Nations and their neighbors.
- Current misunderstandings and real disagreements continue to complicate the relationship.
- Existing engagement between Tribal and non-Tribal entities, especially at the level of elected leadership, is limited and often reactive to issues as they arise.
- A standing space for dialogue could help build relationships before differences arise, instead of trying to resolve every difference on its own.

OUR ROLE

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC), through its Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), will invite Tribes to design and lead an effort alongside the CEDS strategy committee that could support this vision. Northspan and Northland Foundation support this effort and will also engage the region's Tribal Nations on the broader Moving Forward Together framework, as Tribal partnership is essential to any successful effort.

TAKE ACTION

REGIONAL

- Invite meaningful Tribal representation into regional partnerships
- Look to other communities where Tribal and non-Tribal groups have collaborated successfully
- Contact ARDC Executive Director Betsy Olivanti at bolivanti@ardc.org

LOCAL

- Coordinate on local events in ways that honor diverse perspectives
- Attend or offer training on Tribal relations and contracting
- Align community priorities with neighboring Tribal Nations