

**Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission
Statement of Support for the
Truth and Reconciliation Process
To Be Undertaken by State of Maine and Wabanaki Tribes
November 22, 2010**

On July 1, 2010, the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission (MITSC) considered the proposed Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Process to document and to examine the experiences of Wabanaki People who had contact with the Maine child welfare system, primarily focusing on the period after passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978. MITSC unanimously approved a motion to “support the work of the TRC in any way appropriate.”

A Convening Group comprised of Wabanaki Tribal Government and State of Maine officials along with others has developed and guided the TRC process to date. Wabanaki Nations and State Government have agreed to form the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to discover the truth about the experiences of Wabanaki People with Maine State child welfare and to promote healing and lasting change for Wabanaki children and families.

Truth and reconciliation is an ongoing process, and will require commitment from all those affected including the Wabanaki People, their respective governments, and Wabanaki People who were formerly clients of Maine child welfare, their families, communities, religious entities, former state child welfare employees, state government and the people of Maine.

The TRC will produce a report with recommendations for ongoing improvement of state child welfare practices. MITSC believes that the State of Maine and the Wabanaki can be the model for tribal-state child welfare collaborative practice. The TRC has the potential to serve as a model to other areas of tribal - state relations and Native communities and governments in other states for how to recognize the impact of history, to support healing, and to improve tribal - state relations.

MITSC affirms its full support of the Truth and Reconciliation process between the Wabanaki Tribes and the State of Maine.