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THE MOHEGAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

The Mohegan Tribe is a sovereign, federally recognized Indian nation. Its reservation is located on the Thames River near Uncasville, Connecticut. The Mohegan Nation exercises full civil jurisdiction and concurrent criminal jurisdiction over its lands.

The Tribe is governed by a Tribal Constitution, which empowers a nine-member Tribal Council to serve as both the legislative and executive branch, and a seven-member Council of Elders which is responsible for judicial oversight and cultural integrity. The Chairman of the Tribal Council, currently Lynn Malerba, serves as Chief Executive of the Tribe. The Tribal Council and Council of Elders serve four year, staggered terms. A Tribal Court system exists to adjudicate constitutional as well as civil issues.

Other Tribal leaders include Medicine Woman and Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel; and Pipe Carrier Bruce “Two Dogs” Bozsum. In March 2010, the Council of Elders appointed Lynn Malerba as Chief of the Mohegan Tribe. It is a lifetime appointment, and will begin officially in August 2010, at which time she will step down from her position on the Tribal Council. A special election will be held to select her replacement.

The Tribal Government has numerous administrative departments, including Cultural and Community Programs, Education, Gaming Commission, Health and Human Services, Housing Authority, Public Safety, Utility Authority, Land Preservation and Planning and Environmental Protection.

Current enrollment of the Tribe stands at approximately 1,835 individuals, most of them residing in Connecticut near ancestral Tribal lands.