



## The Mohegan Tribal Government

The Mohegan Tribe is a sovereign, federally recognized Indian nation. Its reservation is located on the Thames River in 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 Tribal Council to serve as both the legislative and executive branch, and the Council of Elders which is responsible for judicial oversight and cultural integrity. 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 Chief Many Hearts, Doctor Lynn Malerba, Medicine Woman and Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, Pipe Carriers Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum and Christopher Harris, Firekeepers Jay Ihloff and Tom Epps, and Lodgekeeper Charlie Strickland "Two Bears."

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

### **Quick Facts:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Federal Recognition</b> | The Mohegan Tribe received formal recognition in March 1994.   |
| <b>Membership</b>          | The Tribe currently includes over 2,300 members, most of whom reside in Connecticut near ancestral Tribal lands. |
| <b>Office</b>              | 13 Crow Hill Road<br>Uncasville, CT 06382<br><a href="http://www.mohegan.nsn.us">www.mohegan.nsn.us</a>          |

### **Leadership:**

#### ***Tribal Council***

- James Gessner Jr., Chairman
- Sarah E. Harris, Vice Chairwoman
- Patricia A. LaPierre, Recording Secretary
- Joseph M. Soper, Corresponding Secretary
- Thayne D. Hutchins Jr., Treasurer
- Mark F. Brown, Ambassador
- William Quidgeon, Jr. Councilor
- John G. Harris, Councilor
- Kenneth Davison, Councilor

#### ***Council of Elders/Chief/Medicine Woman***

- Charlie Strickland, Chairman
- Beth Regan, Vice Chairwoman
- Chris Harris, Secretary
- Marie Pineault, Treasurer
- Bruce Bozsum, Elder
- Phil Russell, Elder
- Joe Smith, Elder
- Lynn Malerba, Chief
- Melissa Zobel, Medicine Woman

#### ***Executive Staff***

- Charles F. Bunnell, Chief of Staff
- Larry Roberts, Attorney General

## The Tribe's Journeys



The story of the Mohegan Nation is like that of many other Native tribes. Before the arrival of the Europeans, Sachem (Chief) Uncas brought his people to Shantok and the hills of Mohegan. Uncas believed that cooperation with the English arrivals would ensure his people's survival, and therefore, developed a historic interaction between his Tribe and the settlers.

Just two years after forming the Connecticut Colony, the English formally recognized the sovereignty of the Mohegan Tribe with the Treaty of Hartford in 1638, a recognition that has been maintained through the present day.

For over 350 years, treaties and laws have highlighted the Tribe's independent status. At the federal level, the unique rights of Native American tribes were further recognized and laid out in the Constitution of the United States.

In 1978, the Mohegans filed for federal recognition. After an intensive review of over 20,000 pages of paperwork documenting the Tribe's history, the federal government formally recognized the Mohegan Nation on March 7, 1994, marking the end of a long battle for federal recognition as a sovereign nation. This day was a turning point for the Mohegan Tribe and continues to be celebrated annually by the Tribe.

That same year, the Mohegan Tribe decided to pursue casino gaming as a business strategy, with the goal of returning the Tribe to economic self-sufficiency. In 1996, the Tribe opened Mohegan Sun on 185 acres of its reservation in Uncasville, Connecticut. Throughout its 24-year history, it has continued to expand into one of the most successful entertainment and gaming facilities in the world with three casinos, award-winning entertainment venues, two hotels, an 18-hole championship golf course, a spa and more. It is also home court to the WNBA's Connecticut Sun.



In a continued effort for economic self-sufficiency, the Tribe, under the entity Mohegan (corporate), expanded its outreach to off-reservation ventures in January of 2005 with the acquisition of Pocono Downs Raceway in Pennsylvania. After a 1.5-year renovation and expansion, the property – now known as Mohegan Pennsylvania – reopened, marking the first casino in Pennsylvania to offer slot machines.

In August 2012, the Tribe made history once again by becoming the first Native American Tribe to take over management of a commercial property when a management agreement to oversee operations of Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City was signed - further securing financial self-reliance.

To ensure financial stability, the Tribe felt it necessary to diversify its portfolio and, in 2014, created Mohegan Holding Company, LLC, which focuses on business diversification in non-gaming areas. This includes interests in sustainable energy resources and manufacturing and franchised restaurants.

In what could be considered one of the most pivotal moments for the Tribe since federal recognition, Mohegan broke international barriers in February 2016 when they were awarded a license to operate a one-of-its-kind integrated resort destination at one of the world's busiest airports, Incheon International Airport in Seoul, South Korea - putting the Tribe and Mohegan (corporate) in a strong position for many years to come.



In June of 2019, Mohegan continued to expand their footprint into international gaming markets when they signed a Casino Operating and Services Agreement with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for Casino Niagara and Fallsview Casino Resort. Both casinos are located in Niagara Falls, Canada.

For the Mohegan Tribe, it is not just about protecting their 2,300-plus tribal citizens. It's about being an integral part of our communities – locally and within Indian Country. Because of our successes, the Tribe has been placed in the unique position to help its fellow native tribes both through community outreach, as well as from a business perspective.

The Mohegan Tribe and Mohegan (corporate) entered a management contract with the Cowlitz Tribe in Washington State to develop and operate a \$500 million casino project. ilani opened in spring 2017 and has already received several national awards. This agreement not only provide additional revenue stream to the Mohegan Tribe but helps to ensure the financial future for our fellow natives.

In March 2021, the Tribe continued to break barriers becoming the first Native American Tribe to operate a casino in Las Vegas, Mohegan Sun Casino at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas.

Most recently, the Tribe and Mohegan (corporate) made history in Connecticut after partnering with FanDuel Group and launching a retail sports betting experience with a temporary Mohegan Sun FanDuel Sportsbook retail location. Shortly after, the partnership launched a fully integrated, real money online gaming experience through [MoheganSunCasino.com](https://www.MoheganSunCasino.com), the Mohegan Sun Casino app and FanDuel Sportsbook app.

As the Tribe continues onward, we are reminded of something the late Chief Ralph Sturges said shortly after being granted federal recognition. "...until now, they were living in the past. They had nothing but their history. Now, they are living in the future. Now, they can make history."



**Mohegan (corporate)** is a commercial gaming company headquartered in Uncasville, Connecticut at the home of its flagship property, Mohegan Sun. That directly employs more than 14,600 people in all its enterprises around the world.

- **Mohegan Sun** is a premier entertainment, meeting, shopping, and gaming destination, with three casinos; over 40 restaurants, bars and lounges; three entertainment venues including a 10,000-seat Arena, a 350-seat Wolf Den and an upscale, edgy comedy club plus two luxury hotel towers with a total of 1,563 rooms. Mohegan Sun provides over 9,200 jobs directly and through its business partners at its flagship facility in Uncasville Connecticut.
- **Mohegan Pennsylvania**, a Pennsylvania property owned by the Mohegan Tribe and managed by Mohegan (corporate).
- **Resorts Casino Hotel**, in Atlantic City, the first Native American-owned casino in Atlantic City and the first time a Native American tribe has taken ownership of a commercial property in the U.S.
- **ilani**: In 2004, Mohegan (corporate) entered into development and management agreements with the Cowlitz Tribe to plan, design, and develop a casino-resort on its 152-acre reservation near La Center, Washington. That property, ilani, opened in 2017.
- **Niagara Casinos**: In June 2019, Mohegan (corporate) signed a Casino Operating and Services Agreement with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for [Casino Niagara](#) and [Fallsview Casino Resort](#), assuming the day-to-day operations at both casinos.
- **Mohegan Sun Casino at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas**: In September of 2019, Mohegan (corporate) announced an agreement to operate a 60,000-square foot gaming space called Mohegan Sun Casino at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas. This property opened in March 2021 and is the ninth property to join Mohegan's portfolio. Re-conceptualized and revitalized, Mohegan Sun Casino at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas features 60,000 square feet of fully renovated casino space, over five acres of luxe upgraded outdoor space and pools, new world-class restaurants, lounges and bars, as well as 130,000 square feet of remodeled meeting, event and convention spaces.
- **Project Inspire**: Mohegan's first international expansion in Seoul, South Korea, is a multi-phase development project — named [Project Inspire](#) — is expected to include a three-tower luxury hotel complex with more than 1,300 five-star and six-star guest rooms; more than 20,000 square meters of the most sought after luxury retail brands in the world; more than 20 food and beverage concepts; a 4,500 square-meter Korean cosmetics and beauty hub.
- **Connecticut Sun**: In January 2003, the Mohegan Tribe became the first Native American tribe to own a professional sports team with its purchase of the Orlando Miracle, a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) franchise founded in 1988.
- **Preston Riverwalk Project**: In May 2016, we reached an historic agreement with the Preston Redevelopment Agency to purchase and develop this 393-acre riverfront site. The Preston Riverwalk Project will be a non-gaming destination and is planned to include outdoor and indoor attractions, hotel and retail space, restaurants, housing, a marina, RV Park, and more.



Mohegan  
Holdings

### **Mohegan Holding Company, LLC**

Several years ago, the Mohegan Tribe determined that business diversification opportunities in non-gaming areas were required to maintain self-sufficiency and sovereignty amidst growing competition within the gaming industry. The franchise food industry was deemed a good fit, and since 2014 Mohegan Holding Company has entered into agreements with:

- **Jersey Mike's Subs**
  - Meriden, CT
  - Norwich, CT
  - Mohegan Sun
  - Marlborough, MA
  - East Greenwich, RI
  - Johnston, RI
  
- **Pasta Vita**
  - Mohegan Sun
  - Wethersfield, CT
  - Avon, CT
  - South Windsor, CT
  - Darien, CT