



## 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, Firekeeper Jay Ihloff, 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 2,200 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
- Kathy Regan-Pyne, Recording Secretary
- Patricia A. LaPierre, Corresponding Secretary
- Thayne D. Hutchins Jr., Treasurer
- William Quidgeon, Jr. Councilor
- John G. Harris, Councilor
- Joseph M. Soper, 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, External and Governmental Affairs
- Helga Woods, Attorney General

## The Tribe's Journeys



The story of the Mohegan Nation is similar to 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 20-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, 2 hotels, 18-hole championship golf course, spa and more. It is also home court to two professional sports teams owned by the Tribe including the WNBA's Connecticut Sun and the New England Black Wolves lacrosse team.

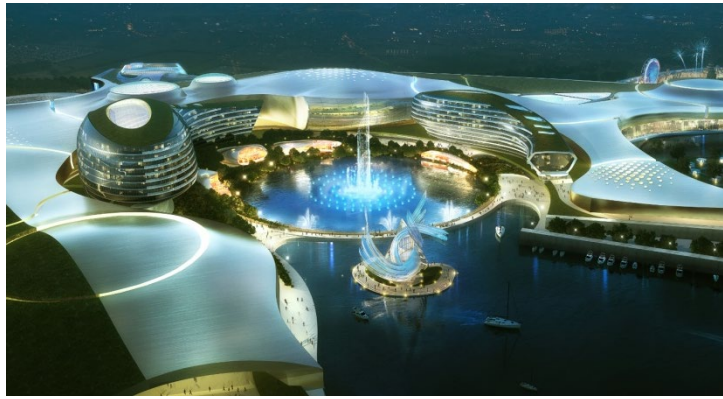


In a continued effort for economic self-sufficiency, the Tribe, under the entity Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment (MGE), expanded its outreach to off-reservation ventures in January of 2005 with the acquisition of Pocono Downs Raceway in Pennsylvania. After a 1.5-year renovation and expansion, the property – now known as Mohegan Sun Pocono – 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 \$5 billion 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 MGE 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 2,200-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 MGE entered into 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 a number of national awards. In addition, more recently, the Tribe, through MGE, also announced a management agreement with Paragon Casino Resort owned by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe in Louisiana. These agreements will not only provide additional revenue stream to the Mohegan Tribe, but helps to ensure the financial future for our fellow natives.

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 Gaming & Entertainment (MGE)** 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 of 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 Sun Pocono**, owned by the Mohegan Tribe and managed by Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment (MGE)
- **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 Gaming & Entertainment (MGE) 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 Gaming & Entertainment 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.
- **Paragon Casino Resort**, owned by the federally-recognized Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, opened in June 1995 as Louisiana's first land-based casino. In May 2016, MGE entered into a consulting agreement with the tribe and in 2018 a management agreement to provide gaming, hospitality and entertainment consulting services to its facility.
- **Project Inspire**: Mohegan's first international expansion in Seoul, South Korea, targeted to open in 2020, the 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.
- **New England Black Wolves**: In 2014, the Mohegan Tribe announced the purchase of a National Lacrosse League (NLL) team known as the Philadelphia Wings. That year, they renamed and relocated the team to Connecticut and use Mohegan Sun Arena as their home field.
- **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.
- **Tribal Winds**: In 2015, the Mohegan Tribe solidified a historic partnership with our neighbors, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, to help save Connecticut jobs and revenue jeopardized by the opening of MGM Springfield's \$900 million casino in 2018. This partnership, called MMCT Venture, allows the two tribes to work together to plan a third, jointly-owned casino in Connecticut to help save millions in state gaming revenue potentially lost to Massachusetts.



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:

- **Arooga's Grille House and Sports Bar:**
  - Arooga's 5 in Warwick, RI
  - Arooga's 1 in Attleboro, MA
  - Arooga's 8 in Shelton, CT
  
- **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
  
- **Mohegan Renewable Energy:** Mohegan Renewable Energy, LLC (MRE) was formed in 2018 by Mohegan Holding Company, a business diversification entity of the Mohegan Tribe. MRE provides wood pellets and other biomass products to the global markets and operates plants in Alabama, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Mississippi.