



## **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 the Tribal Council to serve as both the legislative and executive branch, and a 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 Lynn “Mutáwi Mutáhash” (Many Hearts) Malerba, Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, Pipe Carriers Bruce Bozsum “Two Dogs” and Christopher Harris “Painted Turtle,” Firekeepers Jay Ihloff “Two Trees” 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.

Current enrollment of the Tribe stands at approximately 2,300 individuals, most of whom reside in Connecticut near ancestral Tribal lands.

**Current Tribal Council Members:**

- James Gessner Jr., Chairman
- Sarah E. Harris, Vice Chairwoman
- Kim Baker, 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

**Current Council of Elders Members:**

- Charlie Strickland, "Two Bears," Chairman and Justice
- Beth (Elizabeth) Regan, "Morning Deer," Vice Chairwoman and Justice
- Christopher Harris, "Painted Turtle," Secretary and Justice
- Marie Pineault, Treasurer and Justice of the Peace
- Bruce Bozsum, "Two Dogs," Elder and Justice
- Phil Russell, "Yellow Hawk," Elder and Justice
- Joe Smith, Elder and Justice