



42ND ANNUAL

Protecting Our Children

Together We Stand:
Preserving the Spirit of ICWA
April 7-10, 2024 • Seattle, WA

Sponsor Report



WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

“This conference inspired me and motivated me to become a better worker for the children and families I serve. I was losing my spark and questioning my purpose in this field but I came home wanting to make change.”

“What I most enjoyed was the connections that I made. In between sessions, I found myself immersed in deep conversations with individuals from various tribes which increased my understanding of the unique needs of each tribe and community. This was my first time attending a NICWA conference and something that stood out was the sense of family that I got among everyone that I connected with.”

“This conference was lifechanging in personal and professional ways. As the daughter of a Native American adoptee, I felt like my connection to my Native identity has always been complex. Through this conference, I was able to meet other people who could validate my experience and understand the complications of my identity because they have lived through it. The conference was incredible, and I will for sure be attending next year... The conference was everything I didn't know I needed, I never knew I could laugh so hard and so much in a professional setting.”

- Conference Participant Evaluation Responses

Conference by the Numbers

- 4 Days
- 6.5 Hours of virtual content
- 14.5 CEU credits
- 44 Volunteers
- 31 Exhibitors
- 40 Sponsors
- 52 States and provinces
- 412 Tribal nations represented
- 40 Sponsors
- 83 Workshops
- 184 Speakers
- 924 Store items sold
- 946 New members
- 2,026 Attendees
- 7,152 Cups of coffee
- \$295,500 Sponsorship dollars raised—thank you!



Dear Sponsors of the Protecting Our Children Conference,

Thank you for your partnership with NICWA in the 42ND Annual Protecting Our Children Conference. Your vital support enabled us to host our largest conference yet in Seattle, Washington, with over 2,000 participants!

This year's conference theme, "Together We Stand: Preserving the Spirit of ICWA," marked a celebratory moment for our communities. For more than forty-five years, tribal nations have fought to uphold the spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act—to ensure that our children grow up with strong cultural identities, rooted in the languages and traditions of our ancestors, and strengthening our tribal communities. In the wake of the Supreme Court's June 2023 decision upholding ICWA and affirming tribal sovereignty in the *Haaland v. Brackeen* case, this theme resonated across workshops, plenary presentations, and conversations between participants from tribal and First Nations communities across the US and Canada.

In Seattle, a cross-section of service providers, community members, and advocates gathered for four days of learning, networking, and celebration together, and to further NICWA's mission of strengthening the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families. NICWA's Protecting Our Children Conference has become the premiere national event addressing tribal child welfare and well-being with participants that represent a wide range of fields and interests, including child welfare, behavioral health, and juvenile justice service providers; legal professionals and tribal court judges and personnel; students; advocates for children; and tribal, state, and federal leaders. Keynote speakers included innovative service providers and program leaders, Native youth sharing their experiences with the child welfare system, and members of the coalition that worked together to defend and uphold ICWA through the Protect ICWA Campaign.

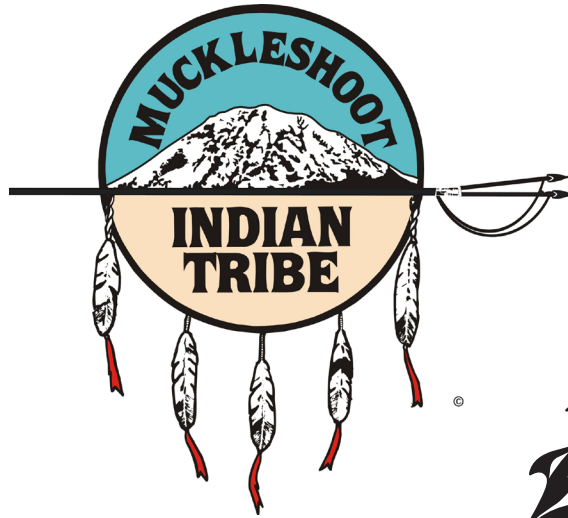


We are so grateful for your support of this powerful event that gave participants the opportunity to stand together and renew their commitments to preserving and expanding the spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act. I invite you to join us again next year in Orlando, Florida, for the 43RD Annual Protecting Our Children Conference to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at Entrance to Universal Orlando, March 30–April 2, 2025. For more information, please send me an email at skastelic@nicwa.org or call (503) 222-4044, ext. 128.

Quyanaa,

Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq)
Executive Director, NICWA

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