

The Washington State Tribal Liaison Sub Committee was able to meet early on a virtual platform for the first time early in this COVID crisis. Here we were able to discuss some concerns and address current climate issues. Since that time there has been continued developments that we would like to share with the Apprenticeship Council.

There is the obvious, which was, no in person training, and safety on the job. Some of the efforts that we previously made had to be cancelled, such as the Yakima Laborers Training that was scheduled for the Spring.

In addition to training issues, "TERO" Which operates similarly to a Union dispatch hall has had to adopt virtual outreach and engagement with their constituency. Some Tribes early on had to furlough its staff for periods of time, and tribes that do not have TERO offices, have struggled to serve their unemployed population. Many of the Sovereign nations had to close their reservations to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The challenges of access to the internet became a very clear concern for Washington Tribes.

Projects that were being planned for some of the nation's within Washington State have been deferred temporarily because of the financial impact to those tribes due to the loss of revenue through gaming and some of their ancillary industries.

As it relates to our work group and the proliferation of apprenticeship there has been a cooling effect that was taking place prior to the COVID 19 Impact due to what I believe is a lack of continual engagement from the public and private sectors.

At the Winter ATNI Swinomish Vice Chair Brian Porter used a regional boilerplate of a tribal labor agreement that had very strong language supporting apprenticeship and workforce development principles, we are hopeful that those efforts, and others like them will continue in the near future.

On the national scene....NCAI President Fawn Sharp was cordially invited to attend the national building trades Union conference for legislate of outreach to discuss sovereignty and workforce development principles, having not long ago adopted tribal labor agreement documents with several different trades to support these efforts. She would have been the 1st Native American elected representative to speak at the caucuses. Unfortunately the conference was canceled due to the outbreak and this did not take place. However the desire to continue educating the community labor and sovereign nations on the value of state and federally recognized apprenticeship continues.

While everyone is developing a "New Normal".... The tribes which are often in person face-to-face and socially driven communicators are struggling as much as everyone else and learning how to navigate social and business engagements through virtual means. Unfortunately this has brought a severe chilling effect to the actions of our committee and limited our engagements to purely electronic. To add more weight to that chilling effect a number of our apprenticeship training centers which are either closely associated to state community and technical colleges have had restrictions for on campus in person learning...