



**MANDAN, HIDATSA & ARIKARA NATION**  
Three Affiliated Tribes \* Fort Berthold Indian Reservation  
Tribal Business Council

Office of the Chairman  
Tex "Red Tipped Arrow" Hall

**Chairman Tex "Red Tipped Arrow" Hall  
2012 Annual Report**

Dosha!

As your Chairman, it is my honor to fight for the change we need and a privilege to lead the Tribe that all of us love. We have much to do in the upcoming year, but we should first acknowledge how far we have come.

I ran on the theme "reform, rebuild and share the wealth". The MHA Nation had a \$110 million debt, no trust funds, no regulation of oil & gas companies, and no environmental or traffic safety codes.

Today, I am proud to say, the picture is totally different. We have succeeded when others thought we would fail. We have succeeded because we are fighters, and because we are a proud and honorable people who have been winning for tens of thousands of years.

**A New Economy**

When I took office in November 2010, the MHA Nation had a \$110 million debt. With your support, I put into place a new economic plan that has helped us turn around our economy 100%. On November 16, 2012 the Tribal Business Council paid down 70% of that debt. Now our debt is down to just \$34 million. But the really good news is this. By 2013 the MHA Nation will be debt free. I firmly believe that with a debt-free government, our people will have an unprecedented chance to create and share in a new wealth and opportunity that our ancestors could only dream about.

One of my proudest accomplishments has been the creation of "***Nuxbaaga iidaa uuwiizaa***" The People's Fund. The People's Fund embodies what is best about us – our spirit of sharing and caring for one another. The Fund is part of my "Reform, Rebuild and Share the Wealth" platform. It was set up for all tribal members, including those who do not receive oil royalties. During the past year, the Fund had grown to \$25 million. I am pleased to announce that on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Tribal Business Council invested another \$75 million into the Fund for a total of \$100 million. I have pledged

that the Tribe will invest this money wisely and will only spend the interest that comes out of the Fund. With that interest, we will be able to pay out dividends to enrolled tribal members.

My Administration has also carried out a number of projects and business decisions that have stabilized our economy by reducing our debt, and increased our growth. First, the Tribe has paid off the money that was borrowed against the 30 million JTAC fund, then added \$10 million to that \$30 million JTAC for a \$40 million Trust Fund. Then the Tribe created a \$10 million Tribal Economic Development Trust Fund. We invested \$18 million in a Tribal Mortgage Company that works for all segments; this mortgage company will give our tribal members an opportunity to purchase a home for their families.

### **Elders, Health, and Community Safety**

We worked hard to take care of our elders, our most honored citizens. We increased the Elder allowance from \$500 to \$600, the first time that has happened in 20 years. We increased the amount of money available under the Wake Fund from \$4000 to \$5000 per wake.

We also invested in our long term health by appropriating \$1 million for Drug Prevention and Awareness. We invested in public safety by increasing the Law Enforcement Budget by \$1 million which will allow us to hire and house more police officers. My administration has also created a Drug Task Force to search out new and effective ways to combat the scourge of drug use and trafficking on the Reservation.

My Administration has taken a strong stance to improve the health of all tribal citizens. I believe that a healthy people make a strong people. We have set aside funding to build staff housing for the Elbowoods Memorial Clinic. Our Clinic will be world class. To ensure that, we are finishing Phase 2 that includes an Emergency Room and, since time saved equals lives saved out here on the Plains, air and ground ambulance and rescue service for all communities.

I have also sought and received approval of new funding that will allow our Fire Department to extinguish life-threatening structure fires that occur at tribal and non-tribal homes, buildings, clinics and schools. Many of you may not realize that the BIA only funds and authorizes us to put out grassland fires.

We have also created a Tribal Roads Task Force to allow us to start rebuilding our roads and end the tremendous hazards to our families' safety due to the dangerous road conditions that have sprung up over the past decade. Through the efforts of the Tribal Roads Task Force was created an "Adopt a Highway" campaign with Enerplus adopting BIA Route 30 in Mandaree to maintain and provide snow removal. More oil & gas companies will follow suit.

Finally, we have decided to invest \$250,000 to renovate the Community Centers across our Reservation.

## **Lawsuits**

I am pleased to report to you that our work in Washington, D.C. to protect your rights and hold the United States accountable for its mistakes has paid off.

First, we won a settlement with the Obama Administration for the long-running Keepseagle class-action lawsuit against the United States because of racial discrimination against Indian farmers and ranchers, a case that was first filed in 1999. Under the settlement, class members received 100% loan and debt forgiveness that will help our people remove the scar of debt so that they can start over their businesses with a “clean slate”. The settlement also includes payouts of \$50,000 for Class A beneficiaries and \$250,000 for Class B beneficiaries.

And President Obama also agreed to settle the Cobell class-action lawsuit for mismanagement of individual Indian trust funds. Over 350,000 beneficiaries will be compensated and will share in the \$3.4 billion settlement. The first payouts of \$1000 have started to go out already.

## **Energy Development**

I have always pledged to build a strong tribal nation through the wise use and stewardship of our natural resources. We are blessed to live on our beautiful homelands. We are further blessed to live over one of the largest deposits of fossil fuels in the nation.

Energy has brought jobs and development to our lands. But often, we are caught in the crossroads between state, federal, and private interests. We are fighting to improve the safety of our lands, our homes, and our roads. And we have made progress on that front.

Still, we can do more. For instance, my Administration has been working on amending our state Oil & Gas Tax Agreement to make sure we get our fair share. Not just so we can get more money, but so that we can stay competitive and leverage the limited time of growth into prosperity for future generations. Under the current agreement, so far the State of North Dakota has received \$242 million while the MHA Nation has only received \$147 million. This must change. I have been tirelessly fighting in the state capitol to amend this agreement and will take our battle once again to the legislature in 2013.

My Administration has also brought one of the greatest economic opportunities to Fort Berthold in generations. The new Thunder Butte Refinery will be the most technologically advanced and environmentally safe facilities in the world. The Thunder Butte Refinery will be able to process up to 20,000 barrels per day. I am pleased to announce that we recently received a water discharge permit from the EPA which

means we have cleared a major hurdle. We have been approved for fee-to-trust application for 469 acres for this project. And our Tribal Business Council has approved Chemex of Salt Lake City, Utah who will be the engineers of the new refinery. Finally, the Tribal Business Council recently approved a Resolution authorizing us to issue \$360 million in tax exempt bonds to finance the refinery. We are on track to become a leading force in energy production in the United States and I am proud of what my team has been able to accomplish in just a few years for the people.

## **Other Investments**

I am also pleased to announce that the Tribal Business Council has purchased two tribal businesses and one property.

First, the tribe now owns the Tribal Ranch which is 10,000 acres of fee land for 2 million dollars that the Tribal Business Council first began to invest in back in 1999. The Tribal Ranch is a wise investment with four existing oil producing wells. We plan on building another 40 wells on the property in the next few years. With these investments, the Tribal Ranch will be worth over \$70 million.

The Tribe has also completed purchasing Twin Buttes Custom Homes. The Twin Buttes Community Association through a proposed resolution will obtain management and operation of this facility to build to home that would also create jobs for the community. This investment will allow the Tribe to own a housing company in a market that desperately needs homes. Specifically, owning TBCH will allow us to build homes for workers and their families on the Bakken Oilfield as soon as possible. The housing backlog in western North Dakota is well over 1,000 homes and the need may be much higher. Our purchase of TBCH means that we can create new jobs, and run a very profitable business for our people as well.

We also purchased the Gevings Property which consists of 67 acres near Parshall in the Northeast Segment. The Tribal Business Council hired an architect firm to develop a design lay-out and business plan for this new property.

## **New Prosperity**

Our business includes the following for a new "*ii cuu wish gaa waa poo*" (horse therapy ranch), it will provide:

- Housing for foster Children
- Equine Therapy for trouble youth
- A tribal gift shop
- Rodeo grounds
- A new tribal hotel
- General C-Store and Gas Station

The Prosperity Plan will create over a hundred jobs for tribal members, who will also have the prospect to utilize this facility.

My Administration has also undertaken the process of revising our tribal probate, environmental, and transportation codes. We will soon have new codes in place that make the generational transfer of land and wealth simple and easy, and with less red-tape. The new environmental and transportation codes will give our tribe more flexibility and control over our resources, yet also allow us to take the most effective steps to protect the health and beauty of our lands.

## **Conclusion**

I need to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts and prayers during my illness. You will never know how much they meant to me. I would not be standing here today if not for you. Your patience and support enabled me to get back to work with a renewed spirit, a sharper focus, and a closer relationship with our Creator. I firmly believe that I have been given a new chance at life through the power of the Creator and with that chance I will work harder than ever to be the best I can be for our tribe and our people.

I am grateful and humbled that the people of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation have chosen me to lead them through some of the most difficult times maybe since the Great Depression. Also, I want to thank the Tribal Business Council for their full support on these investments and balance budget as without them this would not be possible.

With your help and your support, I have been able to take on the challenge of such a radically different economy than any of us have ever seen. We have been through the worst and come out ahead. I believe that right now, our future potential is unlimited. Our problems may be large, but so is our capacity to solve them. We have the tools to create a new economic engine that can benefit us for generations. It can change the way we live. We have the opportunity. Now let us seize it.

Together, we will keep faith with future generations and with the Chiefs and warriors of our past.

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