



# *Narragansett Indian Tribe*

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December 28, 2023

Dear Fellow Tribal Members,

As the Chief Sachem of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, I am honored to provide this year end update, covering the period of December 2022 through December 2023.

2023 proved to be quite industrious. With the entire world still in recovery mode from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Tribe remains steadfast in the quest to best provide services to our people, all while attempting to still etch our mark in the world.

As many are aware, Native Americans have been assigned some of the top positions in the country (Secretary for the Department of the Interior, and United States Treasurer). While Native America has celebrated having their own appointed to these key positions for the very first time, this has also led to other matters pertinent to Native America being put on the back burner, along with many key issues being temporarily paused. The media tends to put emphasis on individuals rather than the potential remedies of importance as it pertains to problems being solved for Native America.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to both the First and Second Councilmen for their attendance to both the USET and NCAI conferences. By obtaining greater knowledge of the goings on in Indian Country as a whole, it only helps us as a Tribe in staying on top of current events and issues that could directly affect the Tribe. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the War Chief for his knowledge of history and key statements made at the above-mentioned conferences as well, recalling what had transpired 45 years ago at NCAI. I would like to acknowledge the Medicine Man for his continued work to preserve, provide, and protect the culture and tradition of the Tribe. I would be very remiss of my position if I did not recognize the love, devotion, and services of the Tribal Prophet. Last but certainly not least I express my extreme gratitude to the Tribal Council for providing stability to enhance our status for the future generations.

With over one hundred and twenty (120) grants/contracts in operation, it takes the entirety of the Program Directors and staff working unified to keep services provided for the tribe. I would like to take this time to express my thanks and deep appreciation to each member of the staff for their dedicated service throughout the year.

For the fourth time we were able to provide stimulus payments to the Tribal body from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. The most recent payment was \$750 to every Tribal Member over the age of 18.

Below please find a list of activities that have been completed/ongoing since the last yearly update (2022). Please note that they are listed in no particular order:

- Received 1<sup>st</sup> payment from opioid litigation
- Continuing pursuit of additional land acquisition
- Continued litigation on Providence Viaduct Project
- Continued litigation on Salt Pond
- Continued litigation on Camp Davis
- Continued dialogue with Brown University
- Continued dialogue with the University of Rhode Island
- Continued talks with the Secretary of the Interior the Honorable Deb Haaland
- Scheduling quarterly meetings with Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee
- Continued dialogue with Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed
- Continued dialogue with Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- Established dialogue with Rhode Island Chief of Police Darnell Weaver
- Reestablished dialogue with Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha
- Continued work on the Crandall Farm
- Established a community gym at Tribal Police Headquarters
- Continued work on the final stages of the NIT Construction Company
- Establishing a Boys and Girls Club
- Continued work on Tribal Broadband Communications
- Continued work on acquiring Tribal Reservation status
- Continued work on Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Law Enforcement.
- Continued work on the Tribal Court System
- Continued review of our Tribal Housing Policies
- Continued review and assessment of Tribal Health Center
- Continued work on Fish/Shellfish program
- Fulfilled Traditional, Cultural, and Ceremonial obligations for our 347<sup>th</sup> Annual August Meeting, Great Swamp Pilgrimage, and our Annual October Thanksgiving
- Distributed over 375 food baskets to our Tribal Community in the Month of December 2023

In conclusion, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully

*Anthony Dean Stanton*

Chief Sachem Anthony Dean Stanton