

educational campaign to enlighten the Non-Native population on these matters. What the Committee is recommending, however, is that the Federal Government in all of its dealing with Native communities, recognize that Native people and their leaders are fully capable of deciding for themselves what they need from outside of their own culture. What they choose or choose not to do within their own culture is a matter for respect and non-interference by Non-Native people.

New Direction: Self-Determination And Community-Based Planning And Control

It must be emphasized that the Federal officials who work directly with Native people have recognized the need for Native communities to determine their own future development. The Federal Government recently introduced a policy which emphasizes community-based planning and control, involving the development of self-government and community self-reliance. This initiative fits well with the emerging movement of self-determination among all Native groups. Collaboration by community leaders and Federal officials should result in unique initiatives to address local needs and problems. The Federal role is to become less prescriptive and more supportive in promoting the transfer of control of these initiatives from government bureaucracies to Native community leaders.



“A culture survives and grows because it meets the deepest needs of the people. If only for that reason, the customs and heritage of Native people are worthy of respect.”

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