



# **7th Tribal Land Staff National Conference**

*Advancing Sovereignty & Self-Determination  
Through Tribal Land Management*

>>> **Meet ILTF's Board of Directors**



**Bryan Maracle** (Mohawk from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation) is the Natural Resources Director for the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments in Yukon, Alaska. He holds a bachelor's degree in natural science from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and was named one of Alaska's Top Forty Under 40 in 2012. "As indigenous people, our connection to the land is ingrained in our being," Maracle said. "Land tenure is vital to sustaining our economies, maintaining our spiritual livelihood and exercising our sovereignty as Native nations."

Maracle joined the ILTF Board in 2012. "Indian land tenure is the most critical issue facing Native people of this generation," he said. "My participation on the ILTF board affords the opportunity to strategically work on Indian land issues and participate in putting lands back into Native hands at the national scale."

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facing Native people of this generation."*





## ILTF's 'Message Runner' profiles land careers in Indian Country

One of ILTF's primary objectives is to educate Indian landowners, tribal leaders, youth and others about important Indian land tenure issues. To that end, ILTF develops and provides access to a broad spectrum of educational materials, including the *Message Runner*. Widely distributed throughout Indian Country, *Message Runner* addresses specific issues in each edition and is utilized by colleges and universities, tribes and federal agencies for education and training purposes.

*Message Runner* Volume 7 focuses on land-related careers in Indian Country. Although Natives are returning home in large numbers, there is a desperate shortage of land appraisers, many opportunities for GIS technicians and surveyors, as well as openings in tribal realty, housing, agriculture and more. "The need for talented people is growing quickly and there are not enough Indian professionals to meet the demand," said Cris Stainbrook, President of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. "We hope this edition of the *Message Runner* will inform and inspire Indian people to pursue careers in Indian land where they can have a long-term positive impact for Indian people and the tribes".

*Message Runner* is free to individuals, nonprofit organizations and tribes. (Charges may apply for large quantities.) To order paper copies, please email [info@iltf.org](mailto:info@iltf.org). Volume 7 and previous issues are also available online at [www.iltf.org/resources/publications](http://www.iltf.org/resources/publications).

<<< Nathan Piengkham (Kalispel) is part of a new generation of young Native professionals working in tribal land careers. Read about his journey in the latest edition of the 'Message Runner.'



# 7th Tribal Land Staff National Conference

The first Tribal Land Staff National Conference was held in 2011 in Las Vegas to provide educational opportunities on the latest issues facing tribes, as well as opportunities for networking with other land professionals in Indian Country. The Conference is co-sponsored by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) and the National Tribal Land Association (NTLA), and is attended by land and natural resources staff, tribal leaders, attorneys, surveyors, GIS specialists and others interested in Indian land ownership and management issues. More than 150 tribes have sent representatives to the Conference.

The 7th Tribal Land Staff National Conference will be held March 21-23, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa on the Santa Ana Pueblo near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference will include 27 unique sessions focused on this year's theme, "Advancing Sovereignty and Self-Determination Through Tribal Land Management." Topics include water rights and settlements, preparing land use plans, economic development, cultural conservation and more.

See the complete agenda and learn more about this important event at [ntla.info](http://ntla.info).

