



## INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL      RESOLUTION 12072018\_3

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of the eleven federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from state agencies, and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations declared 2019 “The Year of Indigenous Languages” in order to raise awareness of them, not only to benefit the people who speak these languages, but also for others to appreciate the important contribution they make to our world’s rich cultural identity, and

**WHEREAS**, on October 30, 1990, Public Law 101-477, known as the Native American Languages Act (NALA) passed, which affirms the United States’ responsibility, in partnership with Native American tribes, to ensure the survival of their unique cultures and languages and recognizes that the traditional languages of Native Americans are an integral part of their cultures and identities and form the basic medium for the transmission, and thus survival, of Native American cultures, literatures, histories, religions, political institutions, and values, and

**WHEREAS**, nearly thirty years after the passage of NALA, the Dakota and Ojibwe languages are still in critical condition, and that the application of NALA has yet to realize its promise, and


**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the State of Minnesota and the tribal nations in the state to continually promote and preserve the Dakota and Ojibwe languages; and

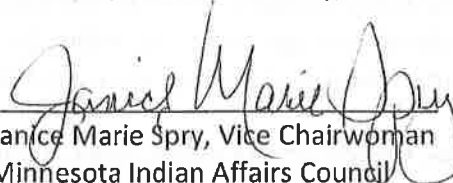
**WHEREAS**, Indigenous heritage languages are the languages of the peoples native to the Americas, and many of these languages are now extinct, some are spoken by a very few elders and are at risk of being lost, and a very few are being maintained within communities of speakers through strong educational efforts.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** , that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council supports the creation and enactment of a legislative policy bill recognizing Dakota and Ojibwe as Indigenous heritage languages in the State of Minnesota, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** , that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council urges the Minnesota state legislature to take seriously the dire status of the languages, and to work expeditiously and actively with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the tribal nations in the state to ensure the survival and continued use of the Dakota and Ojibwe languages.

**CERTIFICATION:** We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on December 7, 2018, at Hinckley, Minnesota.

  
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Robert L. Larsen, Chairman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

  
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Janice Marie Spry, Vice Chairwoman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council