

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

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**Lt. Gov. McLean Wraps Up Main Street Montana Project Tribal Nation Tour**

Helena, MT – This week, Lt. Gov. Angela McLean completed her tour of Montana’s Tribal Nations, as part of the Main Street Montana Project. Over the last two months, McLean has hosted meetings on each of Montana’s Indian reservations, and met with representatives from the Little Shell Tribe. During these meetings they discussed the economic development priorities laid out by the Project, and identified how they specifically could be implemented in each of the communities.

“Montana’s Tribal Nations not only play an important role in influencing the culture and heritage of our state, but they also are crucial to our economic prosperity,” McLean said of her visit. “Through these meetings, we had in-depth working sessions to begin to incorporate the goals of the Project in Indian Country.”

At these meetings, each community identified key objectives that they wanted to pursue. The most common areas of focus were:

- Improved educational opportunities in tribal communities, especially as it relates to workforce development and dropout prevention;
- Infrastructure development; and
- Access to capital.

Work has already begun towards accomplishing these goals. On Wednesday, McLean met with representatives from the Crow Tribe, including Chairman Darrin Old Coyote, members of their economic development and legal teams, and the chair of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission, Shawn Real Bird. During this meeting, they discussed possible changes to the state LLC codes that would improve access to capital for Tribal Nations. Currently, the state of Montana does not recognize tribal LLCs, which creates challenges when tribes seek commercial loans.

As the meetings in reservation communities wrap up, Lt. Gov. McLean and the Main Street Montana Project will continue their work and outreach to Native Americans in Montana. Over the coming month, they will host two meetings with Indians living in urban communities in the state.

Governor Steve Bullock launched the Main Street Montana Project last year, with the goal of developing a business plan for Montana, by Montanans. He tapped two of Montana's top business leaders, Larry Simkins of the Washington Companies, and Bill Johnstone of D.A. Davidson, to lead the effort. With the input of thousands of Montanans, from every county and tribe, earlier this year Bullock, Simkins, and Johnstone released the plan. The plan focuses on five key pillars for economic growth:

1. Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce Today
2. Create a Climate that Attracts, Retains and Grows Business
3. Build Upon Montana's Economic Foundation
4. Market Montana
5. Nurture Emerging Industries and Encourage Innovation

More information about the Project can be found at [www.MainStreetMontanaProject.com](http://www.MainStreetMontanaProject.com) .

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