



Bio: David Z. Bean, Chairman, Indian Gaming Association

David Z. Bean serves as Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, bringing more than two decades of tribal leadership experience and a deep commitment to tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and unity across Indian Country. An enrolled member of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians of Washington State, Chairman Bean has devoted his career to public service and advocacy on behalf of tribal nations.

Chairman Bean served the Puyallup Tribe for 15 years as a Council Member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman from 2006 to 2021. During his tenure, he played a key role in strengthening tribal governance, expanding economic enterprises, and supporting programs that improved the health, education, and overall well-being of tribal members. He also championed the protection of treaty rights and environmental stewardship, grounding his leadership in the teachings of tribal elders that emphasize service to the people, integrity, unity, and responsibility to future generations.

His involvement with the Indian Gaming Association spans more than a decade. Chairman Bean first served as the Northwest Region Representative and later as Vice Chairman, a position to which he was re-elected multiple times. In these roles, he became widely known as a relationship builder and a national advocate advancing tribal priorities and protecting tribal gaming interests.

In October, Chairman Bean assumed the role of Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, taking over the remaining term of longtime Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., following his untimely passing. He has continued Chairman Stevens' legacy of strong, principled leadership, while guiding IGA through a critical period for tribal gaming and tribal sovereignty. Under his leadership, IGA has taken a firm national stance against illegal and unregulated gaming threats, including online sweepstakes and prediction market platforms that undermine tribal jurisdiction and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

As Chairman, Bean's priorities include protecting tribal sovereignty, strengthening federal-tribal relationships, building coalitions across Indian Country, and ensuring tribal gaming remains a strong and well-regulated economic engine for Native nations. He is also deeply committed to supporting Native youth and future leaders, regularly engaging with youth organizations and emphasizing the importance of preparing the next generation to carry forward tribal leadership and values.

Chairman Bean leads with humility, cultural grounding, and a clear understanding that leadership is rooted in service. He often speaks of leadership as a responsibility to honor ancestors, protect tribal nations today, and create opportunity and stability for the generations yet to come.