

## **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Chairman Douglas Cox**

Douglas Cox is the Chairman of the Menominee Tribe, and has served on the Menominee Tribal Legislature, the governing body of the Menominee Nation since 2016. Chairman Cox is an enrolled tribal member of the Menominee Tribe, and is a life-long resident of the Menominee Reservation Community.

During his tenure on the Menominee Tribal Legislature and as Chairman of the Menominee Nation, Douglas has been a key member of various tribal consortiums and committees, and his experience is reflected in his notable commitments.

As Chairman, he participates as a member of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC), which serves as communication link on intergovernmental relations and policy decisions between Tribal Nations and the State of Wisconsin. As a key member, Chairman Cox actively reviews and makes recommendations in regards to existing and proposed local, state, federal, and tribal legislation affecting Tribes.

Chairman Cox is a key advocate for State-Tribal Consultations, as an effective method for establishing and strengthening government to government relationships. Consultation has become a major part of his administration and policy. He advocates and participates in tribal consultations to guide the State's work and interaction with the tribal nations of Wisconsin. He has extensive experience working with and conducting consultations with the State and federal agencies. He is knowledgeable in specific federal laws that require federal departments and agencies to conduct tribal consultations on specific matters, such as ESSA, NAGPRA, ICWA, NAHASDA, Medicaid, CHIP, and some federal programs administered by State agencies and boards with pass through or set aside funds for tribes. Douglas has communicated, met, and consulted with leadership of all departments currently under the State Executive Order—DOA, DHS, DCF, DFI, DATCP, DNR, DOR, Department of Tourism, DOT, DWD, DOJ, WEHDA, DVA, as well as other departments not ordered to directly consult which would include; DPI, and WHS.

Chairman is effective working with and conducting consultations in collaboration with member tribal consortiums, including with GLITC and Menominee Nation, Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW), Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

He has served in leadership capacity in various committees of the Menominee Tribal Legislature, including Constitutional Task Force, Environmental Task Force, Community Development Committee, Law Enforcement and Resource Protection Committee, Conservation Commission, and Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

Since commencing his public service career, Chairman Cox accumulated decades of extensive experience by holding various positions. Douglas has worked for the Tribe for the past 27

years, in the environmental and natural resource management departments, serving as Environmental Program Coordinator, Forest Monitoring Specialist, and Forest Ecologist. He has extensive experience in environmental protection, including in water quality standards, environmental regulatory management, and resource management planning. Chairman Cox has been an active and effective advocate for his Tribe on both a local, state, and national level.

In addition, Chairman Cox served on various federal, state, and tribal committees and boards. Douglas is an appointed member of the U.S. EPA National Tribal Caucus, a national body of high-level tribal advisors and represent all tribes within their regions, to identify and address tribal environmental issues that are national in scope, cross-agency, or cross-media in nature. He serves as on U. S. EPA Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), which is a partnership between federally-recognized Tribes to enhance the protection of human health and the environment in Indian Country.

Chairman Cox represented the Tribe on State committees, councils, and teams. He was delegated by the Menominee Tribe to hold a seat on the Menominee Lake Sturgeon Reintroduction Team with State and Federal representatives to assist with development of a multi-agency plan. He served on the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resources Damage Assessment Trustee Council and the Restoration Technical Team. Both functions involved participation with Federal, State and Tribal officials and staffs, as well as participating in ongoing negotiations over NRDA with Potentially Responsible Parties that included industry and local government representatives.

He served on the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC). The WTCAC consists of appointed delegates from each of the eleven Wisconsin Tribes, along with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, and serves as an advisory council to programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the purpose of communicating and coordinating funding, technical and bureaucratic issues of Tribal natural resource programs that are priority issues. While serving on the council the WTCAC managed to secure several vital changes to the Farm Bill that allowed WI Tribes access to additional funding under programs like EQIP and WHIP.

Chairman Cox served on Menominee Tribe's business enterprises boards. He served on Menominee Tribal Enterprises Board of Directors, including serving as Board Chairman. He served on the Tribe's business development enterprise, Wolf River Development Company.

Chairman Cox has co-authored publications on the relationship between environmental management and cultural practices governance and knowledge systems.

Douglas holds a BAS degree with emphasis in Biology and minor in Environmental Science from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.