



Dear Baltimore City Council President Scott;

We are writing to you on behalf of the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps partnership which is under the umbrella of the Commission on Reconciliation of the Presbytery of Baltimore. We want to urge you to consider passing a bill that will rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day for the City of Baltimore. It is time to acknowledge the truth of the founding of America and Maryland. The law of the time, the Doctrine of Discovery, gave the early explorers the right to take any land that was not inhabited by Christians. The settlers were allowed to do whatever was necessary to rid the land of the "merciless savages" as they are called in our nation's Constitution. These original inhabitants of our state were systematically and often violently removed from their homes. In looking back on those very unchristian acts, it is past time to take steps to acknowledge our real history and to honor the people who lived here for thousands of years before Columbus came.

At the Indigenous Peoples' Day Rally held in Baltimore on Friday, November 29, 2019 the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps Steering Committee Co-Chair, Bob Stepling, and I were very moved by all that was shared through signs, speeches, singing, dancing and chanting. The rally was very powerful and was always peaceful and respectful, and we were sorry that more public officials were not present to hear the impassioned pleas for justice for the Native American people who live in our state/city. There are 88,000 Native American people in Maryland. They would be proud to know that Baltimore City is finally going to take this step of reconciliation, to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. We are hopeful that the City of Baltimore will lead the way and that the State of Maryland will follow in the 2021 legislative session.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this justice issue. We hope that in the future, Baltimore and Maryland can join with the over 60 cities and 12 states that have taken this move toward acknowledging the truth of Columbus Day.

Sincerely,

Chrystie Adams

Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps

Steering Committee Chair

Attachment: Cities and States Celebrating Indigenous People's Day

Cities and counties

Note: Some of these places observe Indigenous People's Day. Others do not observe Columbus Day, and still others partake in alternate observances.

1. Flagstaff, Arizona
2. Phoenix, Arizona
3. Berkeley, California
4. Burbank, California
5. Long Beach, California
6. Santa Cruz, California
7. San Fernando, California
8. San Luis Obispo, California
9. Watsonville, California
10. Boulder, Colorado
11. Denver, Colorado
12. Durango, Colorado
13. South Fulton, Georgia
14. Moscow, Idaho
15. Evanston, Illinois
16. Oak Park, Illinois
17. Davenport, Iowa
18. Lawrence, Kansas
19. Wichita, Kansas
20. Amherst, Massachusetts
21. Cambridge, Massachusetts
22. Northampton, Massachusetts
23. Somerville, Massachusetts
24. Alpena, Michigan
25. Ann Arbor, Michigan
26. East Lansing, Michigan
27. Traverse City, Michigan
28. Ypsilanti, Michigan
29. Minneapolis, Minnesota
30. Grand Rapids, Minnesota
31. St. Paul, Minnesota
32. Bozeman, Montana
33. Lincoln, Nebraska
34. Durham, New Hampshire
35. Newstead, New York
36. Ithaca, New York
37. Carrboro, North Carolina
38. Asheville, North Carolina
39. Columbus, Ohio
40. Cincinnati, Ohio
41. Oberlin, Ohio
42. Anadarko, Oklahoma
43. El Reno, Oklahoma
44. Lawton, Oklahoma
45. Norman, Oklahoma
46. Tulsa, Oklahoma
47. Tahlequah, Oklahoma
48. Lancaster, Pennsylvania
49. Nashville, Tennessee
50. Austin, Texas
51. Bexar County, Texas
52. Dallas, Texas
53. Salt Lake City, Utah
54. Charlottesville, Virginia
55. Olympia, Washington
56. Spokane, Washington
57. Bainbridge Island, Washington
58. Alexandria, Virginia
59. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
60. Madison, Wisconsin

States Observing Indigenous People's Day

Vermont: Observes Indigenous Peoples' Day as of 2019

Though the state made the unofficial switch in 2016 through a gubernatorial proclamation, the legislature just passed a bill making the adoption of IPD official.

Maine: Observes Indigenous Peoples' Day as of 2019

New Mexico: Observes Indigenous Peoples' Day [as of 2019](#)

Alaska: Observes Indigenous Peoples' Day [as of 2017](#)

Governor Bill Walker also signed observances of the holiday in 2015 and 2016 before making the switch official in 2017.

South Dakota: Observes Native American Day [as of 1990](#)

Oregon: Observes Indigenous Peoples' Day [as of 2017](#)

Hawaii: [Observes Discoverers' Day](#) in place of Columbus Day

Louisiana: Governor John Edwards [announced the adoption of Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) in September, 2019

Michigan: On October 14th, 2019, [Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared the day to be Indigenous People's Day](#) "to uplift our country's indigenous roots, history, and contributions.."

Wisconsin: Governor Tony Evers [established Indigenous People's Day via an executive order](#) days before the observance in 2019.

Washington, D.C.: The DC Council [voted to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day](#) a few days before the 2019 observance.

North Carolina: [Governor Roy Cooper has made yearly proclamations](#) designating the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day.

Iowa: Iowa governor Kim Reynolds made a proclamation in 2018 [designating Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day](#).