



NAS 2025: PRESS RELEASE

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On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC), in partnership with over 20 Native-led organizations, will host the third annual Native American Summit at the Capitol Building on the steps of the Rotunda. This gathering of nearly 100 Native Americans serves as a critical forum to discuss policies affecting Native communities in Illinois and beyond.

We will begin the day by Opening the House session with Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick of the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi. At 11:00 AM, attendees will move to the Rotunda for a press conference, followed by a traditional Drum, dance, and song. Legislators, their staff, and members of the press are encouraged to attend to engage with Native leaders on key issues impacting more than 100,000 Native individuals representing over 150 Tribal Nations across the state. We are particularly focused on creating a positive school environment for Illinois children with HB1237. We have confirmed speakers with Representative West, CAICC representatives and Chairman Rupnick and are expecting many more legislators to speak leading up to the event.

The Native American Summit 2025 underscores CAICC's commitment to ensuring Native voices are heard in policy discussions that shape the future of Indigenous communities in Illinois.

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