



Press Release

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Brothertown Federal Acknowledgment 9 A.M. CDT, August 10, 2009
Committee
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BROTHERTOWN INDIAN NATION

AWAITING FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT DECISION

FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN, AUGUST 10, 2009: Mr. Richard Schadewald, Chairman of the Brothertown Indian Nation (BIN), announced today that the BIN is currently awaiting a proposed finding on its federal acknowledgment petition by the Department of the Interior's Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA). The BIN submitted a petition in support of federal acknowledgment to the OFA and have been under active consideration since June 23, 2008. News regarding the proposed finding is expected in late August 2009. A positive determination will restore the Tribe's nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government. Tribal members have worked tirelessly for this since the late 1970s, when the tribe's federally-acknowledged status was discontinued by the federal government.

The BIN is based in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, having moved to the area from New York in the late 1820s. The tribal members' ancestors were Christian members of the Mohegan, Pequot, Narragansett, Montauk, Tunxis, and Niantic tribes of New England and Long Island. Reverend Samson Occom (Mohegan) brought the Brothertown together on land in upstate New York that was provided by the Oneida Indian Nation. The Brothertown Indians moved to Wisconsin in the late 1820s after selling their land in New York. In 1839, they became the first American Indians to receive U.S. citizenship.

The BIN is hopeful of a positive proposed finding by the OFA. A positive determination will provide numerous opportunities to the BIN over the next several years, including a planned research center and library, tribal museum, and housing for elderly and disabled tribal members.

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