

## **25 CFR Part 83 Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe**

### **83.7 Mandatory criteria for Federal acknowledgment**

#### **The mandatory criteria are:**

- (a) The petitioner has been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900.
- (b) A predominant portion of the petitioning group comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until the present.
- (c) The petitioner has maintained political influence or authority over its members as an autonomous entity from historical times until the present.
- (d) A copy of the group's present governing document including its membership criteria. In the absence of a written document, the petitioner must provide a statement describing in full its membership criteria and current governing procedures.
- (e) The petitioner's membership consists of individuals who descend from a historical Indian tribe or from historical Indian tribes which combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity.
- (f) The membership of the petitioning group is composed principally of persons who are not members of any acknowledged North American Indian tribe.
- (g) Neither the petitioner nor its members are the subject of congressional legislation that has expressly terminated or forbidden the Federal relationship.

*The seven criteria are presented here in abbreviated form. For the complete text of each criterion, please refer to 25 CFR Part 83.*