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Special Trustee Addresses Delegation at National Congress of American Indians 72nd Annual Convention

The Special Trustee for American Indians spoke to the leaders of Indian Country to report on “OST at 20” and outline future plans for the Office of the Special Trustee

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Special Trustee for American Indians, Vince Logan, gave a spotlight address during the National Congress of American Indians 72nd Annual Convention on October 22, 2015.

Special Trustee Logan highlighted the progress made by the Special Trustee's office in the two decades since its establishment. He also looked ahead to find opportunities for the Department of Interior and Tribal governments to work together to preserve the gains made in trust reform, while moving toward modernization and greater self-determination. The conference, which also included sessions and panels with other representatives from the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), had a comprehensive range of breakouts that addressed topics such as a yearly policy update, health sovereignty, as well as a workshop on how to create a tribe advocacy plan.

“This was a wonderful venue to share the progress that OST has made in the two decades since its establishment,” said Mr. Logan. “The chance to engage with the leaders of Indian Country is always top on my list of priorities.”

Logan also spoke to a variety of tribal leaders and individuals at the conference and shared information about the services that OST offer. The Special Trustee's visit to NCAI is part of a year-long initiative to visit OST field offices, important Indian Country gatherings, and communities to continue a fruitful dialog between the office and Indian Country, as well as share news of OST's two decades of accomplishment.

“Being a part of one of the most important gathering of indigenous leaders in the country was a real privilege and I look forward to continuing the conversation between OST and Indian Country,” said Logan. “OST hopes to participate in these events for years to come as we move forward as a partner with Indian Country.”

The Special Trustee's next major engagement will be the meeting of the Special Trustee Advisory Board in Washington, DC on November 3-4, 2015.