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### **Ten Environmental Victories and Triumphs of 2013**

**Indian Country Today, News Report:** With all the talk of rising temperatures, acidifying oceans and melting polar ice, it is hard to see the healthy trees for the forest, as it were. Yes, the emerald ash borer and the mountain pine beetle are making inroads, and yes, extreme weather is becoming the norm. But it's important, too, to note the environmental triumphs and victories that tribes either helped engineer or benefited from, or both. Native peoples reintroduced fading species, restored habitats and stopped big industry in its tracks. [READ](#) | [DISCUSS](#) | [SHARE](#)

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### **Sending Artworks Home, but to Whom?**

By TOM MASHBERG

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science will return 30 totems to the National Museums of Kenya, which will decide whether to search for their owners.

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**Fighting to Kick the Habit** **By MIKE TYSON** **nyt op ed**

**Published: January 3, 2014**

LAS VEGAS — IT'S the time of year for resolutions. Lose 20 pounds, get to the gym, eat healthier, be more productive, whatever. But in a few months, many people will let these goals fall by the wayside, to be revived next year. I belong to a group who can't afford to make pledges we don't keep. I'm an addict.

For addicts, discipline isn't something to strive for each new year; it's necessary for every moment. Though it might be surprising — considering all the craziness associated with the Mike Tyson persona — one of my best qualities is my unerring discipline, which my mentor and first trainer, Cus D'Amato, instilled in me. Cus and I worked hard so I could become the youngest heavyweight champ in history; I sacrificed most of my social life as a teenager and for years pushed my body to extremes every day, just to repeat the brutal regimen the next day.

Cus died a year before I won my first belt, in 1986. With him gone, I had less of an incentive to stay disciplined, and I started drinking heavily and taking drugs. I finally retired from boxing in 2005. I didn't want to insult the sport by coming in out of shape, just fighting for a payday. That's when I became a full-on raging addict. Since then, I have struggled for sobriety, sometimes successfully, at other times not.

Even though I possessed incredible discipline when it came to boxing, I didn't have the tools to stop my slide into addiction. When I got a chance to get high — boom, I'd get high. I wouldn't call my sponsor, wouldn't call my therapist, wouldn't call my sober companions.

No, in order to kick it, I had to replace the cravings for drugs or alcohol with a craving to be a better person.

I've learned that being sober is more than just avoiding drugs or alcohol. It's a lifestyle focused on making moral choices and elevating the things that make life worth living to the forefront. Don't get me wrong. If I craved drugs or alcohol, I'd still give in. I could never fight those cravings. But when I am focused on doing good and being good, and practice the day-to-day mechanics of a sober, healthy life, I don't get those urges to do bad things to myself.

Of course, I needed a developed conscience to back it up. Over the years, my conscience has saved me from descending into a life of total, selfish hedonistic abuse. Even when I was just an antisocial kid, stealing and jostling in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, my friends and I would question our behavior. At my lowest points, I'd still be somewhat outside myself, thinking of the effect my actions had on other people.

Even with your conscience nagging at you, it's extremely difficult to develop a sober and moral consciousness without a good support system. When I was in the prime of my career, I had a lousy support system. Greedy vultures were all around me, putting their hands in my pockets, using my status for their own self-aggrandizement. There was no way I could win with people like that in my corner. I am now very fortunate to have a wonderful wife and children surrounding me.

In 2009, I vowed to get sober after the accidental death of my 4-year-old girl, Exodus. I was determined to live a better life for the sake of my family, but the pain was so bad that I went back on drugs. Recovery is a drawn-out process, and without the continued encouragement of my support system, it would be close to impossible.

Strangely, times of success are most dangerous for me. When people tell me, "You're great" or "Your comeback is amazing" or "You're a god," I could feed right into it and go get high. Hey, if my life is so good, how could smoking a joint be bad? How could a shot of Hennessy or a line of

coke be so bad when everything else I've been doing is great — especially when there are beautiful, successful people feeding my ego and supplying the drugs? So I've learned that when people congratulate me, that's when I focus on my flaws. That way I don't allow my narcissism to fly sky-high and allow me to think that I can act out without any consequences.

I had been sober for five years when I had a slip and started drinking again last August. I had just finished the manuscript of my book, my one-man show was about to air on HBO, and we had a reality series in the can for Fox Sports. I was not accustomed to all that success in an arena other than boxing.

I have such a negative self-image that I just expect bad things to happen to me. And even though I hadn't been using for five years, all that time I just didn't feel comfortable in my skin. I was holding secrets from my loved ones, things that I had to get off my chest because I was dying inside. That's the worst feeling in the world, keeping things to yourself. When I resolved those issues, through therapy and by talking honestly with my family, I felt like a new man. When I relapsed in the past, I would keep getting high until I was in a car accident or got arrested. But this time, after drinking for two or three days, I came back. I didn't wait for an intervention. I just got right back on the wagon. After years of therapy, I had learned not to beat up on myself. I remembered that relapse is a part of recovery.

This is the best I've ever felt. I'm on the pathway to humility, fully aware that you can't rule until you've served. I'm looking forward to a glorious 2014, when all of our best-intentioned resolutions become realities.

*[Mike Tyson](#), a retired heavyweight champion, is the author, with Larry Sloman, of the memoir "Undisputed Truth."*

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## **Colorado River Drought Forces a Painful Reckoning for States**

By MICHAEL WINES    NYT

Drought and population growth are driving a reassessment of how the 1,450-mile Colorado, the Southwest's only major river, can continue to slake the thirst of one of the nation's fastest-growing regions.

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### **INDUSTRIAL PRACTICES THAT ARE TOXIC OR INCOMPATIBLE WITH LIFE:**

(Corporate media reports on these crises as if they are all separate issues. They are not).

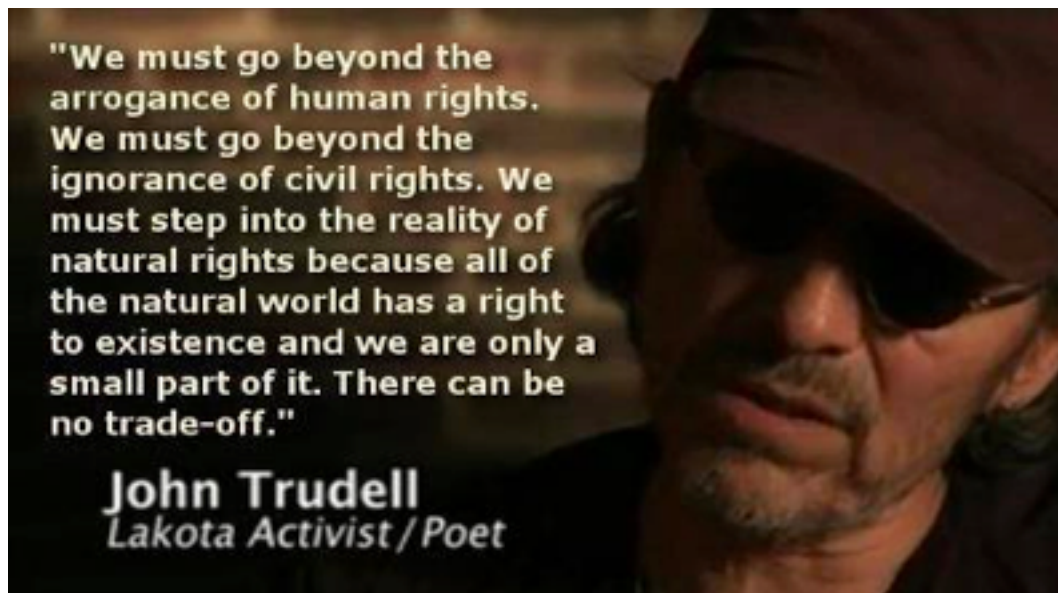
\*Greenhouse gasses emissions that create a total biosphere extinction global warming scenario, including emissions from solar panel production which are worse than CFCs. \*Centralization of power through economy, language, and culture - and the externalization of consequences, which has meant the unrelenting destruction of indigenous and sustainable cultures. \*Global food crisis due to geopolitical industrial exploitation of resources and people. \*Water drawdown and soil loss: Industrial water grabbing is drying up rivers and swallowing entire aquifers around the world. The shift to industrial drilling for water - essentially water mining - has caused major drops in water tables. [Nestle Corp has bought the water rights for most of the world, for more on this see the film Blue Gold. Nestle has also recently patented human breast milk]. \*Soil drawdown and desertification. It takes a thousand years for the earth to create a few inches of

topsoil. Currently, topsoil is being lost at 10-20 times the rate at which it can be replenished.

\*Overfishing: 90% of the large fish in the ocean have been wiped out, and seafloor habitats have been obliterated. Every 6 months, industrial trawlers drag an area the size of the continental U.S.

\*Deforestation, which stops the transpiration that trees provide, and encourages desertification.

Without major global action, by 2030 only 10% of the tropical forests will remain intact. Yet the year 2005 broke all previous records for woodcutting. From the book Deep Green Resistance, pp 37-49 [www.deepgreenresistance.org](http://www.deepgreenresistance.org)



### **FACEBOOK: "Tribal Sovereignty"**

LEGAL BASIS: Presently, the Constitution of the United States, U.S. Supreme Court, state and federal laws — as well as historical Treaties with the U.S. federal government — all support the federally-recognized Native American tribes' present-day legal rights to self-governance and certain limited forms of national sovereignty — AMERICAN TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY RESEARCH PORTAL.

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### **Amber fossil reveals ancient reproduction in flowering plants** [oregonstate.edu](http://oregonstate.edu)

CORVALLIS, Ore. – A 100-million-year old piece of amber has been discovered which reveals the oldest evidence of sexual reproduction in a flowering plant – a cluster of 18 tiny flowers from the Cretaceous Period – with one of them in the process of making some new seeds for the next generation.

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### **Injunuity, an animated documentary from a contemporary Native American perspective.** [injunuity.org](http://injunuity.org)

Welcome to Injunuity, an animated documentary about contemporary Native American thought Directed by Adrian Baker. Starting in March 2013, a new short piece will roll out every month featuring animation of different themes ranging from Native American language preservation to a comedy skit by the 14...

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### **24 Invaluable Skills To Learn For Free Online This Year** [buzzfeed.com](http://buzzfeed.com)

Here's an easy resolution: This stuff is all free as long as you have access to a computer, and the skills you learn will be invaluable in your career, and/or life in general.

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### **FACEBOOK: "Baja Tribes"**

MULTIMEDIA: Professional photojournalism documenting five Indian communities of Baja California Norte, Mexico — [AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL DOCUMENTARIES](#)

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### **How the Harper Government Committed a Knowledge Massacre** [huffingtonpost.ca](http://huffingtonpost.ca)

Scientists are calling it "libricide." Seven of the nine world-famous Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] libraries were closed by autumn 2013, ostensibly to digitize the materials and reduce costs. But sources told the independent Tyee in December that a fraction of the 600,000-volume collecti...

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**Forget Golf Courses:**  
**Subdivisions**  
**Draw**  
**Residents**  
**With Farms**  
**n.pr**  
Across the country, homebuyers are embracing subdivisions that make farms a central amenity.

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### **Charlotte's Library: How I Became a Ghost, a Choctaw Trail of Tears Story**

by Tim Tingle [charlotteslibrary.blogspot.com](http://charlotteslibrary.blogspot.com)

Wow, very interesting! I too have heard of the Trail of Tears, but I feel like I know next to nothing about it. This book sounds great.

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## **Grand Canyon Bans Bottled Water Sales**

The National Park Service announced in February that it would ban the sale of water bottled in plastic containers within the Grand Canyon National Park boundaries. This comes more than a year after the move was first announced and then delayed amid rumors that water bottler Coca Cola opposed the decision.

The restrictions, which are now in effect, are in line with a new park service policy spelled out in December 2011 in which all parks are to stop selling plastic water bottles within their boundaries.

The Grand Canyon has installed ten water filling stations on the South Rim and three on the North Rim. Some of the park's concessionaires have installed similar facilities at hotels or restaurants. Many of the gift shops now sell refillable containers.

Plastic water bottles account for 30% of the park's recyclables and 20% of the overall waste stream. The bottles have become a serious litter problem along trails on the rim and inside the canyon.

The park service originally announced its intent to ban plastic water bottles in May 2010; however, they delayed the move in December of that year. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) released documents that suggested the park had bowed to pressure by Coca Cola, which bottles and sells the Dasani brand of water. The park and Coca Cola strongly denied the charges.

## **The Leonard Peltier Story**

**youtube.com**

Native American Activist Leonard Peltier is serving time in prison for the death of two FBI agents but he has caught the headlines as a political prisoner th...

## **You've Never Seen Native America Like This**

Courtesy of Matika Wilbur by Amy Stretten - 12/12/2013

Being a modern American Indian often requires balancing cultural traditions and family obligations with the demands of the non-Native world. Which essentially means being an ambassador between your tribe and non-Indians.

"We walk in two worlds as young, Native people," [28-year-old photographer Matika Wilbur](#) said. "We learn to navigate with a moccasin on one foot and a [tennis shoe](#) on the other. Maybe we'll go to ceremony on Saturday night and we'll come out and use our iPhone."

Wilbur is from the Swinomish and Tulalip tribes. She grew up on the Swinomish Indian Reservation in Skagit Valley, Washington about one hour south of British Columbia. She was formally trained at the Brooks Institute School of [Photography](#) in Santa Barbara, California. She hopes her photography skills can help clear up some things.

"I'm here to carry the message from the silenced," she said during her TED talk in Seattle earlier this year. "To show you some of Native America's beauty and to encourage our collective consciousness to re-imagine the way we see each other."

Currently, she is en route to the Southwest—stopping in Arizona and New Mexico—as part of a three-year project to photograph Indigenous peoples from every federally recognized tribe in the United States. But that's no easy task.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. interstate system has a total length of 47,182 miles. There's no telling how much of that Wilbur will cover, as she zig-zags through the country. To meet her goal by August of 2015, she must visit four tribes per week.

"My objective is to unveil the true essence of contemporary Native issues, the beauty of Native culture, the magnitude of tradition, and expose our vitality," Wilbur said in her Kickstarter video.

The endeavor is called [Project 562](#). Why 562?

"Most people don't know that there are 562 federally recognized tribes (which has changed to 566 in the last few years)," Wilbur said on the crowd-funding site. "And it has been my observation that the general stereotype is that we haven't survived. And so, giving power to a number was important to me—even though finding an accurate number is difficult, given the ever changing political climate."

Wilbur began her trip at the end of November last year. Traveling by—and occasionally sleeping in—her car, she visits tribal reservations and communities one-by-one with her Mimiya film camera and a Canon EOS 7D, seeking to capture communities as they are, highlighting their unique cultural identity, focusing in on the significance of tradition for Native peoples.

After speaking at TED, Wilbur launched a [kickstarter campaign](#), earning more than \$35,000 (\$5,000 above her goal).

She has several speaking engagements and museum exhibitions already lined up once she completes the project and has a [mobile app](#) in the works that will allow users to experience Project 562. For Wilbur, it's important to make art accessible and affordable for everyone. "I've struggled with the eliteness of the art world," she said.

Wilbur estimates that she's been to about 160 tribes so far.

"I've been taken aback by people's kindness. People have been so generous with me," she said. "How magical that Indian people everywhere I go take me in, invite me to stay, they feed me, give me gifts, they introduce me to their family and are generous and kind with me. It's so overwhelming."

Wilbur only raised enough money for materials and gas and can't afford to pay for someone to accompany her, so she picks up and drops off friends—new and old—along her route.

The significance of Project 562 hasn't gone unnoticed. While Native news outlets, like [Indian Country Today](#) (which is like the New York Times for Indian Country), have covered her story since it was just an idea, [mainstream](#) outlets have also taken interest in the project.

Despite the publicity, for Wilbur, the struggle is real.

"I say to myself, 'You say that [you want to do this], but how much am I really willing to sacrifice on a personal level to make this happen? For me, it means sacrificing health insurance and Restoration Hardware sheets, they fall by the wayside...and driving sucks. When I go to these communities and people share their stories with me, I sort of represent hope for them. They trust me."

In addition to educating non-Natives about contemporary Indian culture, Wilbur would like to see Indians represented in mass media by Indians. "I'd like to see us represented in a way that's authentic and empowering, that moves away from stereotypical Hollywood representations." She hopes Project 562 "inspires, empowers and encourages younger generations to tell them to as well."

Like any professional photographer, though, Wilbur is particular about her craft. She prefers shooting film because she is able to create silver gelatin prints. After developing the film, she hand-colors sections with oil paint. She is meticulous, but her photographs are well-worth the effort.

Below are a selection of her favorites thus far from Project 562. They give a glimpse into the diversity of today's Native America.

"Kumu Ka'eo is one of the few teachers who teach in the style of Kealaleo, under Kumu Ipolani Vaughan, a Hawai'ian language immersion program based in Honolulu, Hawai'i. I was so grateful to meet Ka'eo. He shared Hawai'ian culture with me, and we found solidarity in our traditional beliefs."

Steven Yellowtail is a rancher, as is his father. She met Yellowtail last summer and was moved by



his generosity. She was sick and worn down from traveling. He insisted she stay in his room and he would sleep on the couch. Though she is friends with his older sister, she had never met him before. This was one of many stories of kindness and generosity she tells of her travels.

"This is the lovely Dr. Mary Evelyn Belgarde from the Pueblo of Isleta and Okay Owinge," Wilbur said of the retired University of New Mexico Indian education professor. "Mary is very passionate about training teachers to work within indigenous communities."

"I had a recurring dream of these ladies protecting Eckos, and this is exactly what that dream looked like," Wilbur shared. "These ladies are my adapted sisters. I have tremendous respect for their commitment to traditionalism."

Pictured are American Indian Movement activist, John Trudell, and his son Coup "Grasshopper" Trudell in the Mission District of San Francisco where they live. Of the photo, Wilbur said, "John is one of my longtime AIM heroes, so I was flabbergasted when I knocked on his door in the Mission District and he answered. I loved hearing John Trudell speak. He is inexplicably intelligent and our conversation really resonated with me."

"Tatanka Means is one of the only young men that I photographed that arrived with a prayer tie and offering for our photoshoot," Wilbur shared. "He comes from greatness. He is the son of [Native American activist] Russell Means. While I visited with Tatanka, I got the overwhelming feeling that I was in the company of a great leader. Or maybe it's just his laughter."

"This is a photo of my cousin Anna," Wilbur said. "Anna is 16 years old, and she is Swinomish, Hualapai, Havasupai, Cherokee, Chemowave, and Skowlitz. Isn't she beautiful? I just love this photo. I trust that Anna will be another fierce warrior woman, watch out for her, she has greatness inside of her."

So, what does it mean to be an Indian in the 21st century? Wilbur hasn't come to any conclusions just yet.

"I'm not sure. I'm still trying to figure that out," she said. "Some Indians are very traditional, while others are not."

Wilbur is launching another fundraising campaign in January. She'll be collaborating with [Bethany Yellowtail](#), a fashion designer who is Crow and Northern Cheyenne, to create special gifts for backers of the project.

You can follow Wilbur's journey on her [blog](#).

<http://fusion.net/culture/story/native-american-photographer-matika-wilbur-photographs-tribal-nations-295172>

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/01/05/6046630/outrage-in-owens-valley.html>

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**[Outrage in Owens Valley - The Sacramento Bee](#)**  
[sacbee.com](#)

By now, the story seems old. A young city, thirsty for water, deploys wealth, cunning and power to divert a river from a distant valley, safeguarding its future at the expense of others.

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Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and Spiritual Leader of the Great Sioux Nation presents council statement on Fukushima at the Tillman Chapel at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

<http://www.care2.com/greenliving/now-is-the-time-to-heal-the-earth.html>

### **Starting a Business in the New Year?**

If you are starting a business in the new year, you'll need a business plan. However, finding the time to write one can be difficult. But, it doesn't have to be that way. Write your business plan using the SBA's business plan tool which guides you through the process. > [Create your business plan](#)

### **Disaster Preparedness Webinar: Best Practices and Lessons Learned | January 14**

Join SBA and Agility Recovery for a webinar of best practices and lessons learned from the dramatic events and disasters of 2013. Gain insight about business continuity and disaster recovery strategy along with steps and tools your organization needs in order to be prepared. > [Register now | January 14, 2pm ET](#)

**TIP:** Preparedness is key to averting disasters. Don't get caught off guard, and let BusinessUSA's [disaster assistance tool](#) help your business prepare for, as well as recover from, any number of disasters.

### **Webinar Series: How to Navigate the SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program**

Did you know SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program is designed to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal marketplace and it also offers executive level business training that helps to keep small businesses competitive?

Join Darryl Hairston, Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Business Development as he walks you through the 8(a) program in a series of two free webinars in January.

- Not Just Contracts: The SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program | January 15, 2 pm ET | [Register now](#)
- Top Reasons Why SBA Returns and Declines an 8(a) Application | January 22, 2 pm ET | [Register now](#) > [Read more](#)

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## **Internship Opportunity with the [Indian Land Tenure Foundation](#) Summer 2014**

### **INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION**

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is looking to hire up to three current undergraduate or graduate students as interns for the summer of 2014. The internships are full-time positions over the course of 10 – 12 weeks (400 hours). Beginning and ending dates are negotiable. Salary will be \$15.00 per hour with potential additional funds for living and relocation expenses. As temporary employees of ILTF, interns are not eligible for employee benefits.

### **ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

ILTF's mission is to ensure that "land within the original boundaries of every reservation and other areas of high significance where tribes retain aboriginal interest are in Indian ownership and management." We support this mission through long-term capital investments, focused grantmaking, and collaborations with those holding similar interest in Indian land tenure issues.

### **INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTIONS**

**Communication Intern:** Primarily responsible for formatting and uploading lessons to curriculum website using Drupal. Will also research news for social media postings and help with projects as needed. Applicant must have attention to detail and thorough knowledge of grammar, punctuation and MS Word.

**Research Intern:** Conduct research and document data identifying various land ownership patterns of tribal lands by reservation. The intern must have knowledge of database technology (MS Access preferred).

**GIS Intern:** GIS Analyst to work with ArcGIS software for GeoDatabase extraction and analysis of reservation lands with an end result of designing and producing various maps.

### **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: February 14, 2014**

We will inform applicants of selection no later than March 13, 2014.

### **INTERN QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicant must demonstrate professional communication and writing skills appropriate for a business environment. Background knowledge on Indian land history is not required, but a desire to understand the historic relations between tribes and governments is critical. Research, analysis and data collection experience is preferred, along with a basic understanding of Microsoft Office products. Must be willing to interact in new or different environments socially and culturally.

### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Please submit letter of interest, resume and a list of computer programs with which you are familiar to: Patricia Chase, Office Manager, 151 East County Road B2, Little Canada, MN 55117

[pchase@iltf.org](mailto:pchase@iltf.org) 651-766-8999 (t) · 651-766-0012 (f) · [www.iltf.org](http://www.iltf.org)