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**(S.D.)-LaPlante To Serve As Interstate Council President**



By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 10/27/2013 06:39 AM

PIERRE, South Dakota (AP) - South Dakota's secretary of tribal relations will serve as the president of the Governor's Interstate Indian Council.

JR LaPlante says he's humbled to have been elected and looks forward to serving with his fellow delegates.

The council, formed in 1949, includes state Indian Affairs Offices, Commissions and Departments from across the country. Its mission is to promote and enhance government-to-government relations between the tribes and states, respect and recognize the individual sovereignty of the tribes and the states, support the preservation of traditional Indian culture, language and values and encourage socioeconomic development aimed at tribal self-sufficiency.

LaPlante was picked by Gov. Dennis Daugaard in 2011 to lead the newly created South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations.