TRIBAL TECHNOLOGY

Executive Briefing:

AI Readiness for Sovereign Nations

A leadership briefing for Tribal Council and senior staff — no technical background required. Five readiness domains, a priority action matrix, and sovereign guiding principles.

Pair this briefing with the free AI Readiness Assessment at ai-assessment.tribal-technology.com

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KEY FINDING

Policy before procurement.

Tribal nations that establish data sovereignty policies, vendor evaluation criteria, and internal governance structures *before* adopting AI systems retain far greater control over outcomes. This briefing helps leadership build that foundation.

READINESS ASSESSMENT

Five Sovereign Dimensions

Complete the interactive assessment at ai-assessment.tribal-technology.com to score your nation across each domain. Use the table below to record your results.

Domain	Description	Your Score
■ Data Governance	Written policies, data inventory, breach processes, member transparency	_____ / 100
■ Sovereignty	Jurisdictional language, cultural data protections, FPIC processes	_____ / 100
■■ Vendor Risk	Procurement checklist, terms review, data portability, Indigenous data vetting	_____ / 100
■ Community Impact	Community consultation, decision boundaries, feedback channels	_____ / 100
■ Workforce	Internal AI lead, staff training, leadership literacy, capacity plan	_____ / 100
	Overall Readiness	_____ / 100

0 – 39%	40 – 69%	70 – 100%
Emerging	*Developing*	*AI Ready*
Foundation-building phase. Prioritize data governance and sovereignty policies before any AI adoption.	Good progress. Target your two lowest-scoring domains. Pilot low-risk AI with strong oversight.	Strong foundation. Ready to evaluate and adopt AI tools with appropriate governance structures in place.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Where to Start

Priority	Action Item	Domain
CRITICAL	Establish a written Tribal Data Sovereignty Policy grounded in CARE Principles	*Data Governance*
CRITICAL	Audit and classify all tribal data assets — know what you have and where it lives	*Data Governance*
CRITICAL	Review all vendor contracts for data ownership, portability, and termination rights	*Vendor Risk*

HIGH	Develop a Tribal AI Procurement Checklist for evaluating new vendor proposals	*Vendor Risk*
HIGH	Designate an internal AI/Data lead responsible for governance oversight	*Workforce*
HIGH	Establish explicit contractual prohibitions on use of tribal cultural data for AI training	*Sovereignty*
MEDIUM	Design a community consultation process for technology decisions affecting members	*Community Impact*
MEDIUM	Conduct all-staff AI literacy training (minimum 2 hours) for tribal employees	*Workforce*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Six Commitments for Sovereign AI Adoption

I. Sovereignty First	Jurisdictional authority over te... should be adopted that comp...	**IV. Build Internal Capacity**	Every adoption should include a plan to re... tribal expertise, not perpetual vendor relian...
II. Community Over Efficiency	AI tools that improve operatio... are not improvements. Comm...	**V. Consent Is Ongoing**	Community consent for AI deployments is not... to revisit, pause, or halt deployments as cond...
III. Cultural Data Is Sacred	Language, oral history, and c... Explicit contractual prohibitio...	**VI. Start Slow, Learn Fast**	Begin with low-risk administrative use cases a... deploying AI in sensitive domains like health, ...

NEXT STEPS

Take the free AI Readiness Assessment at **ai-assessment.tribal-technology.com** to score your nation across all five domains and generate a prioritized action plan.

Download the companion RFP Addendum at tribal-technology.com/resources to protect your nation in any AI or technology procurement — free to use and adapt.

Questions or want to discuss your nation's readiness? Contact us: info@tribal-technology.com