Indigenous Peoples Task Force

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indigenous Peoples Task Force Board of Directors Names Suzanne Nash Executive Director

Minneapolis, MN: The Board of Directors of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) announced today that it has selected Suzanne Nash as the organization's next Executive Director. Nash succeeds founding Executive Director Sharon M. Day, who retires after 36 years of leadership, having served in the role since May 1990.

Nash is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe. Raised in ceremony by culturally grounded Anishinaabe Kwe, she has spent decades working alongside individuals, families, Elders, youth, and community leaders, grounding her work in culture, ceremony, and community healing. She is a mother of two and grandmother of two.

A trusted leader at IPTF for more than 24 years, Nash has served in nearly every part of the organization, including as Housing Director, where she oversees the Maynidookahdak Odena housing program Operations Manager; Return to First Medicines Project Coordinator; and most recently Director of Cultural Health and Policy Initiatives. She leads Four grant-funded prevention and wellness programs.

Nash helped facilitate the community vision for the Mikwanedun Audisookon Center, which IPTF opened in July 2026. The 12,350-square-foot, $12 million facility in the Phillips neighborhood brings IPTF's health, housing, arts, and theater programming together under one roof.

Nash has long led through collaborative, community-centered planning. In 2006 she founded the Return to First Medicines Annual Gathering, a health and wellness conference planned with an intergenerational council and hosted in tribal communities across Minnesota. She also leads the Indigi-Baby Food Project, a food sovereignty initiative for Native families, conceived the National Indigenous Youth Fashion Show, and serves as lead organizer of the Remember Our Loved Ones Memorial.

Beyond IPTF, Nash is an American Indian Grassroots Engagement Consultant with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Founder and CEO of Luminous Heart LLC, and a Certified Practitioner of The Center for Mind-Body Medicine. She serves on the Metropolitan Council American Indian Advisory Board, the Fentanyl Free Communities board and the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction. She is also Vice President of the Elders Lodge Board.

"Suzanne knows IPTF and the community it serves from the inside out," said Kelley Lindquist, IPTF Board member. "Her more than 24 years at IPTF and her trusted relationships with tribal and urban Indian communities give the Board confidence that she will build on Sharon's legacy and continue IPTF's work to strengthen the health and education of Native people as we grow into our new home."

"IPTF's vision has always been shaped by an intergenerational circle of Elders, adults, and youth from both urban and tribal communities," said Nash. "Our new center gives that circle a home, where IPTF will continue to evolve and grow for generations to come."

Nash's appointment takes effect November 1, 2026.

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