



## Čanlí Coalition of CRST

### History of the Čanlí Coalition

In 2009, the South Dakota legislature expanded its smoke-free policy to include bars, restaurants, and casinos. However, the law's passage didn't affect the Cheyenne River Reservation or the eight other tribes in the state because of tribal sovereignty.

At the time, the adult smoking rate among the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) members was 51% which was higher than the U.S. smoking rate in 1964 when the surgeon general first declared that smoking was harmful (Legacy, 2014; U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1964).

That's when Missouri Breaks gathered a group of five key stakeholders who wanted smoke-free indoor air and founded the Čanlí Coalition in Eagle Butte, SD. Čanlí (pronounced CHUN-lee) is the Lakota word for commercial tobacco, distinctly different from traditional plants, such as čaŋšášá (pronounced chan-shah-shah) used by Lakota people in tribal ceremonial practices.

The work to pass a smoke-free indoor air ordinance was a multi-generational grassroots effort by local activists: youth, concerned adults, healthcare professionals, educators and elders who came together to shape the Coalition, and create strategies to convince the CRST Council to pass legislation. Coalition members ceaselessly worked and continue to work to educate community members of all ages on the dangers of commercial tobacco. At the same time, the Coalition worked with public health law advisors to draft a comprehensive policy package to present to the Tribal Council.

The Čanlí Coalition's advocacy paid off. In April 2015, the Cheyenne River Tribal Council passed the Smoke-Free Indoor Air Act-Ordinance 77, prohibiting smoking and the use of e-cigarettes in all indoor public buildings and 50 feet from entrances to public buildings. Since then, the National Congress of American Indians passed a resolution advocating for comprehensive tobacco policies (NCAI, 2016). To date, there are only three other tribes in the U.S. that have passed comprehensive smoke-free air policies.

Following the Čanlí Coalition's successful passage, implementation and enforcement of the CRST Smoke-Free Indoor Air Ordinance 77, many other tribes have asked for support to replicate the Čanlí Coalition's model to take on tobacco prevention and control strategies.

For a video summarizing the history and work of the Čanlí Coalition's go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVjGUXN1Wg4>. To stay up-to-date with the Canli Coalition follow their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CanliCoalitionOfCRST/>.

### Čanlí Coalition Process Evaluation & Framework

The Čanlí Coalition conducted a process evaluation in 2018 of their efforts with two main objectives.

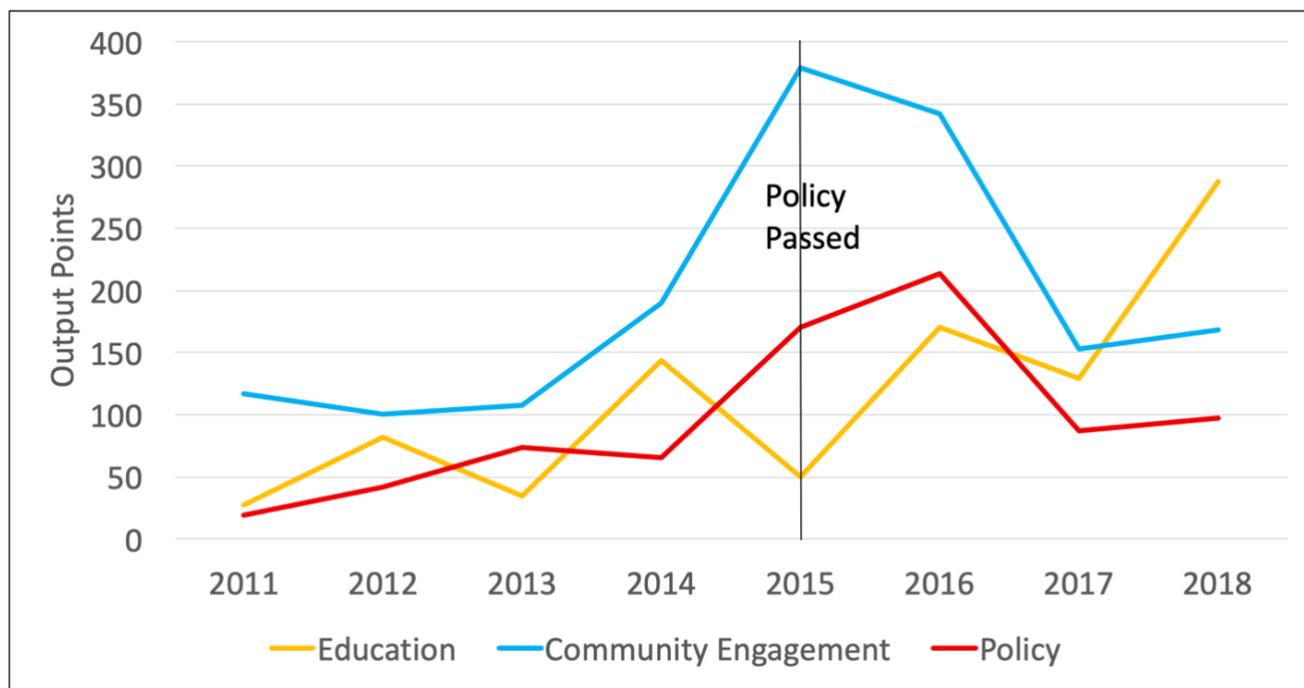
1. Evaluate the process undertaken by the Čanlí Coalition of CRST to pass a comprehensive smoke-free indoor air policy.
2. Develop a framework for the Čanlí Coalition that can be replicated by other sovereign tribal nations.

## Methods

Two internal reviewers from the Čanlí Coalition compiled a list of 26 grants received from 2011 to 2018 and individually reviewed grant reports. A data collection tool was developed to organize and code tobacco strategies and activities by framework component (education, community engagement or policy) and quantitative outputs. Each quantifiable output was assigned a point value reflecting its estimated impact on the Čanlí Coalition's goal to reduce the tobacco disparities on CRST.

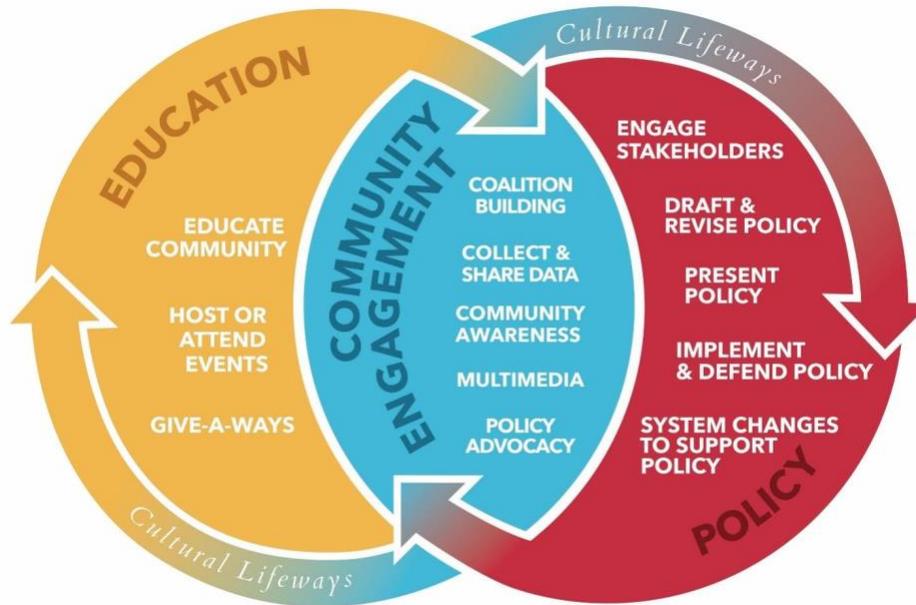
## Results

When output points are broken down by year, education varied from year to year, but had an overall upward slope. Community engagement increased sharply from 2013 to 2015, and then decreased following the passage of the Smoke-free Indoor Air Act - Ordinance 77 in 2015. Estimated impact points for policy increased steadily from 2014 to 2016, and were reduced but still maintained in 2017 and 2018. Overall, output dropped in 2017 due to loss of some funding to support the Coalition work.



This graph shows the momentum gained prior to the successful passage of the CRST smoke-free indoor air ordinance and the continued work that followed (*Keep It Sacred*). The Čanlí Coalition framework that resulted from the process evaluation includes tribal tobacco education, community engagement and policy that can be applied to any population in need of public health policy to close the gap in health disparities.

## Čaŋlí Coalition Framework



The Čaŋlí Coalition wants to help you by sharing their framework to advance public health initiatives for Native people. There is no beginning or end to this process. Each component leads to another. You can start anywhere, but education and policy activities must include community engagement to be effective. Cultural lifeways are embedded in the framework to remind you to customize initiatives to fit your communities' culture.

Depending on the level and type of community engagement needs, focus may need to move from education to policy or vice versa. For example, when the Čaŋlí Coalition's progress for a reservation-wide smoke-free indoor policy was stalled, attention was shifted to a heavier concentration on education. To get back into the policy circle, the Čaŋlí Coalition started with other smaller scale tobacco policies and gained the momentum necessary to pass the reservation-wide policy as shown in the timeline.

## TOBACCO POLICY TIMELINE

July 2013

Cheyenne River Housing Authority makes 24 new parks smoke-free

June 2014

Cheyenne River Motel implements \$50 smoking fine

Sept 2014

Timber Lake City Council passes a smoke-free park policy

Aug 2016

3 smoke-free housing policies pass for low-income apartments

Oct 2016

Eagle Butte City Council passes a smoke-free park policy

Dec 2017

Eagle Butte School enhances tobacco policy and respects the use of Cansasa (traditional tobacco)



Lakota Cultural Center discourages using commercial tobacco in a sacred way & bans selling commercial tobacco

Feb 2014

Cheyenne River Indian Health Services includes e-cigs in tobacco policy

July 2014

CRST Tribal Council enacts Ordinance 77 and becomes 1st SD tribe with smoke-free indoor public places!

May 2015

CRST Tribal Council declares PowWows and Rodeo Grounds smoke-free

Sept 2016

Timber Lake School enhances tobacco policy and respects the use of Cansasa (traditional tobacco)

Nov 2016



Continual use of the Čanġlí Coalition framework is an effective approach to initiate new public health policies and to sustain existing public health policies. The tobacco industry is constantly transforming and finding new ways to target vulnerable populations, like American Indians and youth and young adults. It is *critical* to keep pace with the ever-changing tobacco industry by incorporating new products and marketing tactics into education, community engagement, and policy initiatives (Lempert & Glantz, 2018). The Seventh Generation Principle, recognized by many Indigenous populations, is that we must consider the impact of today's actions on past, present and future generations. Tribal public health models with proven success, such as the Čanġlí Coalition framework, fulfill the Seventh Generation Principle (Joseph & Joseph, 2017). The Čanġlí Coalition's framework should be used to reduce the health inequities of Native people for the present generation and for seven generations to come.



## References

- Joseph, B., and Joseph, C. Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. (2017).
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- Lempert L, and Glantz, S. Tobacco Industry Promotional Strategies Targeting American Indians/Alaska Natives and Exploiting Tribal Sovereignty. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. March 12 2018; 0(0).
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- National Congress of American Indians. (Mar 2016). Resolution Number SPO-16-046 Supporting Policies to Reduce Commercial Tobacco Use, Secondhand Smoke Exposure, and Tobacco Related Disease Among American Indian and Alaska Natives. (URL: <http://www.ncai.org/resources/resolutions/supporting-policies-to-reduce-commercial-tobacco-use-secondhand-smoke-exposure-and-tobacco-related-disease-among-american-indians-and-alaska-natives>)
- U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Public Health Service. (Jan 1964). Smoking and Health: Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. (URL: [https://www.scribd.com/document/199073624/Smoking-and-Health#download&from\\_embed](https://www.scribd.com/document/199073624/Smoking-and-Health#download&from_embed))

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