



National
Congress of
American
Indians

Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAVE THE DATE: Change the Mascot Press Conference – Tribal Leaders to Address New Campaign Initiatives Related to D.C. NFL Team During Sept. 16 Press Conference

New initiatives for the 2014-2015 NFL season will be announced by the national grassroots Change the Mascot campaign, whose Native American leaders will stand shoulder to shoulder with Members of Congress, religious and civil rights leaders.

Oneida Nation Homelands (Sept. 15, 2014) A press conference at 12:00 p.m. on Capitol Hill is to be held by the grassroots Change the Mascot campaign to announce new initiatives it plans to undertake during the upcoming NFL season to educate the public as to the derogatory and offensive nature of the R-word.

Change the Mascot will be joined by Native American leaders who are gathering in Washington to discuss key issues related to Indian Country during Tribal Unity Impact Days, an event being organized by the National Congress of American Indians in partnership with regional intertribal organizations, tribal nations and other national tribal organizations.

Members of Congress, religious and civil rights leaders will join the Native American leaders of the Change the Mascot Campaign during the press conference. Attendees will hear from a

diverse coalition of supporters about plans to expand the campaign's efforts, and why it is imperative that the racist name of Washington's NFL team be changed immediately.

Speakers will include Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, NCAI President Brian Cladoosby, Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata, Rev. John R. Deckenback of The United Church of Christ, Rev. Graylan Hagler of Plymouth United Church of Christ, NAACP Senior Vice President Hilary Shelton, and the Leadership Council on Civil and Human Rights Executive Vice President Nancy Zirkin.

WHAT: Press conference announcing important new initiatives from the Change the Mascot campaign for the 2014-2015 NFL season, and addressing other key challenges in Indian Country.

WHO: A diverse coalition of Change the Mascot supporters including Native American leaders, Members of Congress, civil rights organizations, religious groups and other advocates.

Speakers will include Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, NCAI President Brian Cladoosby, Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata, Rev. John R. Deckenback of The United Church of Christ, Rev. Graylan Hagler of Plymouth United Church of Christ, NAACP Senior Vice President Hilary Shelton, and the Leadership Council on Civil and Human Rights Executive Vice President Nancy Zirkin.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 16 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern

WHERE: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Hearing Room; 628 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

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