

**GOVERNORS BLUE RIBBON STUDY
COMMISSION ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION:
STATES RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOUR TRIBES
FROM 1820 TO PRESENT AND THE ISLAND OF
MALAGA**

The purpose of this study is to bring the historic truth to light. There can be no productive future in the State of Maine with the four tribes or it's African American community until the historic truth is known.

This study would enlist a minimum of two historic investigators to research the Tribal State history from 1820 to present. They would research State records regarding the purchase of the four townships, the confiscation of tribal lands and resources, the establishment and disbursement of trust fund monies by the State to pay tribal expenses and the attitude towards and treatment of the tribes during that time period. They would utilize Legislative reports and records as well as newspaper articles, letters and other documentation they might find. Their goal would be to bring to light the tribal state relationship and how the State treated the tribes in general and how this treatment affected the tribes and their relationship with the State of Maine. They would also research the circumstances and historic records surrounding the removal of people of color from their homes on Malaga Island as well as the desecration and relocation of the cemetery. The investigators would be hired with grant or foundation monies. They would present their findings in a written report to the Blue Ribbon Commission. The Commission would review the findings and make recommendations to the Governor who in turn may take whatever action he deems appropriate.

The study would be released to the public. This historic study would enable the people of the State of Maine, Tribal members and African Americans to view the events of their past, to process those events and to move forward with that knowledge into an honest and trusting relationship. To date that past has been hidden and we cannot move ahead in the darkness of ignorance. The Maine Tribes, and the African American community of Maine want to be equal partners with the State and contribute to it's economic and educational future.

The foundation of any partnership is trust and we must uncover the past, shed some light on it, understand it and then move on. We cannot move forward until we know where we have been.