

## 9.1.4 Tribal Governments

Tribes operate under their own governmental systems. Many tribes have executive, legislative and judicial arms of government. Many have adopted their own constitutions and some still have traditional systems of governments.

- The chief executive of the tribe is called the tribal chairperson, similar to our governor or the president.
- The chair presides over the governing body called the tribal council, which performs the legislative function and assumes those duties delegated by the general membership.
- Most tribes require a referendum of the membership to enact laws and make changes to their constitution.

In Washington State there are twenty-nine (29) federally recognized tribes and several non-federally recognized tribes and Indian organizations. ~~Washington ranks among the top ten states in terms of significant Indian population and significant reservation land base. Over 50% of tribal members still live on or near reservations.~~