

# RUTH ANNA BUFFALO

## MIWRC'S NEW CEO



Ruth Buffalo is originally from Mandaree, North Dakota. She is a citizen of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Chiricahua Apache. A former lawmaker, Ruth is a public health professional and community advocate. She has served on advisory councils focused on women's health, women's leadership development and local food systems. She is board President for the National Native Boarding School Healing Coalition. She is also the former board president of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition. In 2019, she was named North Dakota Woman of the Year by North Dakota Women's Network. Ruth has introduced new laws focused on Human Trafficking and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons prevention. She is the original bill author of a new law that requires Native American history to be taught in all schools, grades K-12 in North Dakota. Ruth was appointed to the Not Invisible Act Commission. She founded the local grassroots MMIP taskforce in the Fargo Moorhead area.



Ruth is an educator, community organizer and public health professional. Ruth has served in various capacities focused on building healthy and safe communities.

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Ruth is a former Fargo Native American Commissioner and a former North Dakota Lawmaker. She has introduced new laws focused on public safety, prevention and awareness of MMIP and Human Trafficking, and the creation of a Missing Persons Database. She serves as board President for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. She is a co-founder of the local FM MMITP Taskforce. She is an appointed commissioner to the Not Invisible Act Commission.

In 2022, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Concordia College. She is a 2019-2020 Women's Peacemaker Fellow, former Chair of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition and a 2017 recipient of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 40 under 40 leadership award. The Fargo Forum named her among local leaders to watch in 2019. She was selected as the 2019 North Dakota Women of the Year by the ND Women's Network and received the 2019 Arc of Justice Award from the ND Human Rights Coalition.

Her consultant and independent contract work has included several nonprofit organizations and improving the quality of life for Native communities. Her work includes research and advocacy, community capacity-building and continued reconciliation efforts through education.

Ruth is originally from Mandaree, North Dakota and currently resides in south Fargo with her husband and four children. In 2018, she was elected to serve a four year term in the North Dakota legislature representing the people of North Dakota as a Representative for District 27.

She is a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Chiricahua Apache. Ruth earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (2002) and Master degrees in Management (2005), Business Administration (2010), and Public Health (2016).