



Adler

By David Adler

Confronted with the dangers of expansive executive power, our nation's founders sought to curb it at every turn. The authors of the Declaration of Independence produced a lengthy list of grievances against the tyrant, King George III, in service of the American Revolution. In the Constitutional Convention, the framers sharply limited the scope of authority vested in the newly minted presidency, above all, to fence off exercise of the crown's discretionary prerogative powers. The framers replaced the personalization of executive power with

the institutionalization and constitutional confinement of presidential power. In their replacement of personal rule with the rule of law, the framers rejected the historical admiration of the executive and the cult of personality that had reigned since the Middle Ages. In the United States, presidential power would flow, not from the "blood and bone of the man," but rather from the Constitution.

Reflections on President's Day 2026-- the concentration of power in the hands of President Donald Trump, his sweeping and repeated acts of abuse and usurpation of power, and the failure of institutions to check it-- suggest Americans have forgotten vital lessons from the founding that ought to resonate across our nation.

The framers rejected a powerful presidency. James Wilson, second to James Madison as an architect of the Constitution, told his col-

leagues, "The prerogatives of the Crown are of no moment" in the creation of the republic. Madison swept away the pretense of unbridled executive authority: presidential power is "confined and defined." As students of history will recall, he stated that, "in a republic the legislature predominates."

To temper executive power, the drafters of the Constitution granted the lion's share of governmental power to Congress. Presidential powers, enumerated in Article II, were meager by comparison, only painstakingly granted and subject to numerous institutional checks. For a generation that lived in dread fear of discretionary executive power, there was no interest in recreating an embryonic monarchy on American soil.

The Constitution embodies a pattern of authority limited by division and hedged by restraints, a

~~ We the People ~~

"President's Day: Forgotten Lessons from the Framers of the Constitution"

design that reflects the framers' enthusiastic commitment to enumeration of powers, separation of powers and checks and balances. Justice Louis Brandeis, the most scholarly of justices, wrote in 1926: "The doctrine of the separation of powers was adopted by the Convention of 1787, not to promote efficiency, but to preclude the exercise of arbitrary power." The purpose, he wrote, was "to save the people from autocracy."

Expansive executive power has long been the bane of American Constitutionalism. Today, it is the bane of our existence. The framers, to a man, were convinced of the need to protect against the concentration of power. It reflected their deep-seated belief that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. For the founders, power was a constant threat to liberty. Accordingly, it was not the object

of trust, but rather, mistrust, which led Thomas Jefferson to write, "we bind government by the chains of the Constitution." Without vigilance, ambitious presidents can slip the chains of the Constitution. In 1952, Justice Felix Frankfurter observed: "The accretion of dangerous power does not come in a day. It does come, however slowly, from the generative force of unchecked disregard of the restrictions that fence in even the most disinterested assertion of authority." As things stand, the flow of power to the executive shows no signs of ebbing.

Watergate, our first experience with a would-be autocrat, was more than the personal tragedy of Richard Nixon. Apart from Nixon's contempt for the rule of law, it was, taken as a whole, a function of the decline of separation of powers, checks and balances and institutional values.

The claims of political expediency, rather than demands for adherence to constitutional principles, first in foreign affairs, and then domestic matters, purported to justify the concentration of power in the executive. In the aftermath of Watergate, remedies and devices were put in place to restrain the flow of power to the executive. Over time, however, those restraints have weakened and disappeared. As a result, on this President's Day, we note that the concentration of executive power in the hands of President Donald Trump is greater than it has ever been. Considering his predecessors, there is not even a close second.

History may not repeat itself, but as Mark Twain observed, "it rhymes." The question, in our time, is when will we heed vital lessons from the founding?

International Peace Garden Seeks Board of Directors



The International Peace Garden (IPG) is seeking candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. A complete nomination packet will include:

- 1) Letter of nomination from a Lifetime or Annual IPG member.
- 2) Nominee's biography, resume or CV.
- 3) Completed Nominee Questionnaire.

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Nomination deadline: February 28

Election: Takes place in April at the IPG Annual General Meeting.

About the Garden: The International Peace Garden (IPG) is located directly on the inter-

national border between North Dakota and Manitoba within the Turtle Mountains south of Boisevain, Manitoba, and north of Dunseith, North Dakota. Conceived in 1928 as a symbol of peace and goodwill between nations, the Garden was officially dedicated in 1932. The IPG exists as a living monument commemorating the continued peace that has existed and will continue to exist between Canada and the United States. Although the IPG has evolved over the decades, our focus remains constant on the idea that as long as our nations exist, we will not take up arms against each other.

About the Board: The Board of Directors creates a vision for IPG and provides advice and policy direction to the CEO. The board is made up of 14 to 20 members, an equal number from each country. Board members are elected to three-year terms and may be re-elected; the maximum length of

service is 15 years. One member each is appointed by the Governor of North Dakota and Premier of Manitoba, the remaining members are elected.

Board member responsibilities:

- Maintain Annual or Lifetime IPG membership
 - Attend quarterly board meetings (minimum)
 - Participate in at least one standing committee, which meets at least quarterly.
 - Support IPG fundraising efforts.
- Communicate with staff and fellow board members via email and attend online meetings.

- Absorb personal travel expenses related to Board and IPG activities.

International Peace Garden Board of Directors Nominee Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions and submit along with your biography, CV or resume. Please keep your responses to one page or less. Thank you.

- What is your past experience with IPG?
- Why are you interested in serv-

ing on the IPG Board of Directors?

- What skills, knowledge, and experience will you bring to the Board of Directors?

- What is your experience serving on another board(s)? Please share one or two highlights of your service.

How to submit nominating materials: Email to CEO Tim Chapman at tim@peacegarden.com no later than February 28.

Dakota Gardener

A Cautionary Tale

Disease-causing organisms can survive in seedling containers and tools used the previous year, so be sure to clean and disinfect them.



Knutson

By Carrie Knutson, Horticulture agent NDSU Extension - Grand Forks County



To keep seedlings and transplants healthy and prevent disease issues, use new potting soil or a seed-starting mix. (NDSU photo)

Seed starting time is just around the corner. I would like to share a cautionary tale about seedlings while there is still time to order or purchase your seed-starting supplies. This way, you won't have to live in fear of your precious tomato seedlings dying, as I did last year.

Two years ago, I found a tomato variety I really liked by accident. Last year, I was lucky enough to find the seed. It was expensive seed, and I was really watching over my seedlings. To my dismay, after the seedlings were transplanted, the leaves began to curl, and the lower leaves started to die. There was always new growth, but the older leaves just kept dying.

At that point, there wasn't much I could do. I transplanted the tomato seedlings into new containers with new potting soil. They seemed to hold their own but only improved when it was time to harden them off outside and plant them in the garden. I planted the tomato plants deeply and had the best tomato crop ever.

What was happening to my tomato plants? I am still not sure what happened. All my other seeds germinated, transplanted and grew well. With that in mind, let's go through a list of things to consider to make sure your seedlings survive indoors and can be planted in your garden.

First, clean and disinfect last year's seedling containers and tools. After washing them in hot, soapy water, soak them in a 10% bleach solution for 30 minutes. Damping off is a common seedling disease that can kill the seedlings of many different plants and vegetables. The disease-causing organisms can survive in containers used the previous year. Cleaning and disinfecting containers and tools will help prevent the disease.

Second, seed heat mats can help improve plant growth by keeping the soil temperatures warmer. In addition, grow lights are a great investment for seed starting. The grow lights should be on for 12-16 hours every day.

Third, keep your seedlings and transplants healthy by using potting soil or a seed-starting mix.

The mix will allow excess water to drain, keeping the mix moist but not overly wet. Always use new potting or seed-starting mixes to help with any disease issues.

Fourth, water seedlings with room-temperature water. Keep the soil moist, but not overly wet. Seedling containers should have drainage holes. An easy way to avoid overwatering is to water the seedlings from the bottom by pouring water into the catch tray. Wait about an hour and drain the excess water from the catch tray.

Finally, fertilizer should be applied only after the first several true leaves have formed. Then use a quarter-strength mix to avoid burning the seedlings. Additionally, a small fan can be used to create air movement and strengthen stems.

I'm still not sure what caused the issue last year. I thought I did everything right. Perhaps the tomato variety is a bit picky when grown indoors. I might give a seed heat mat a try. I will let you know how it goes. Happy gardening!



Advertisement for Construction Bids Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians TMBCI Maintenance Building Expansion Project 4180 Highway 281 — P.O. Box 281 Belcourt, ND 58316



The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) is requesting Stipulated/Fixed Price Bids for Construction Services for the following Project: **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Maintenance Building Expansion**

Construction of a new 40'x80'X14' cold-climate garage-style pole barn. The building must meet climate frost depths, heavy snow loads and thermal efficiency requirements. The Bid shall include all materials, equipment, and labor necessary to successfully complete the project. The work includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Foundation and Structural Specifications.
 - o Column Depth at a minimum of 48 inches to 96 inches.
 - o Footings 16-inch to 24-inch diameter concrete pad with rating @ 5000psi.
 - o Treated 6x6 or 4X6 post columns, spaced 8 feet on-center.
 - o Concrete collars poured around post base or 2X6 uplift anchors.
 - o For metal siding 2X6 wall girts, spaced 24 inches on-center.
 - o 24-inch-tall minimum R-12 insulation board installed vertically on the inside of the skirt board, with horizontal insulation (R-12 to R-15) extending outward from the slab edge.
 - o 4-inch concrete slab on grade, placed over a 6 mil (or thicker) vapor barrier.
 - o Heating: If using radiant in-floor heating, R-10 insulation is recommended beneath the slab.
- Roof & Framing
 - o Trusses must be engineered for local snow loads, typically spaced 4 feet to 8 feet on-center.
 - o 2x4, 24 inches on-center roof purlins.
 - o 4/12 or 8/12 roof pitch.
 - o 12-inch eave and gable overhangs are recommended to protect walls from snow drift and water.
 - o Condensation Control: A double-bubble vapor barrier or proper vapor barrier on the roof is essential for preventing frost/dampness issues.
- Garage Specifications
 - o Insulated garage doors.
 - o 36-inch insulated entry door.

The expansion shall be constructed per requirements herein, applicable building codes as required for occupancy, and its intended use. The project is located in T162N, R70W Section 29 on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Reservation.

Bid documents, Sealed Bids, Bid Bond, Subcontractor list, Supplier list & Qualifications for the project must be delivered to the **TMBCI Engineering and Construction Office, located in the Tribal Office Building Room 154, by 1:00 P.M. local time on March 18, 2026.** The bid documents may be hand delivered or mailed to:

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Attention: Engineering & Construction Department - Kris Delorme-Blue
4180 Highway 281 West
P.O. Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

A public bid opening will be held on March 18, 2026 at 1:15 PM. The content of the proposals submitted will remain confidential in nature until an award has been made to the selected company. TMBCI will not consider bids received after the closing date and time.

Bids shall contain complete and detailed unit prices for labor, equipment, construction materials, 3% TERO Fee, 1% EPA Fee, and all other appropriate prices. Bidders shall comply with TERO ordinances and Tribal Procurement. Project is approved for state tax exemption.

Contractor must possess any and all licenses and permits as may be required by applicable federal, state and/or local laws/ordinances. A copy of the Contractor's business and state license shall be submitted with the Bid.

Contractor must provide the ability to secure/hold comprehensive general liability of \$1.0 million, auto liability of \$1.0 million and worker's compensation of \$1.0 million, if selected.

If claiming Indian Preference, provide copy of MBE/WBE certification from the state office or proof of Indian Ownership.

Owner assumes NO responsibility for misinterpretations of Bid Advertisement. TMBCI reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to re-advertise when it is in the best interest of the Tribe.