



## Some MUUSAN Highlights

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

By the (approximate) numbers:

- Supported or opposed at least **36 bills\*** in the second (short) session of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature;
- Testified on **16** of those bills,\* increasing MUUSAN's visibility and voice at the statehouse;
- Achieved unprecedented engagement of UUs across the state in support of tribal sovereignty legislation. Together, UUs generated at least **70** testimonies before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, **141** one-on-one communications with legislators, **125** communications with the governor's office, and **11** letters to the editor;
- Held **4** bimonthly Network Meetings on Zoom with an average attendance of more than **60** (including one record-breaking meeting with **105** registered for virtual attendance!).

Guest speakers\* included:

- Passamaquoddy Representative Rena Newell, on the challenges faced by Maine's Wabanaki tribes;
- Dr. Bill Clark of Maine Healthcare Action, on the road ahead for universal healthcare in Maine;
- Former Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap and Representative Nicole Grohowski, on the role of state officeholders in protecting and expanding voting rights; and
- Representative Seth Berry and youth climate justice leader Emily Rochford, on the urgency of environmental action in Maine.
- Gathered **8** of our UU congregations to march behind the MUUSAN banner in the June Portland PRIDE Parade (with other congregations marching in their local parades);
- Published **19** Action Alerts\* that were distributed to more than **500** members on MUUSAN's email list; Added **2** more key community coalitions with which we collaborate in our advocacy work (other partner coalitions include the Environmental Priorities Coalition and the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition):
  - The Wabanaki Alliance coalition: more than **100** Maine organizations working under the direction of tribal leaders to advance tribal sovereignty; and

*\*Additional material for items marked with an asterisk is available at [www.MUUSAN.org](http://www.MUUSAN.org)*

- Vision for an Equitable Maine: over **60** Maine-based organizations formulating and promoting a shared vision for policy reforms, tackling the underlying problems that perpetuate injustice in our economy, systems, and laws;
- Welcomed a new (**26<sup>th</sup>**) Maine UU congregation, the New Brackett Church on Peaks Island (a federated church belonging both to the UUA and the UCC);
- Received donations from **11** Maine UU congregations (one more than last year), despite a second year of Covid-related financial challenges faced by many of our congregations;
- Celebrated an increase of more than **50%** in individual donors supporting MUUSAN financially (though still less than 10% of those we consider part of the MUUSAN community). Supporters making monthly donations increased from 17 to **22**, allowing us to predict cash flow better to cover fixed expenses;

And wait—there's more!

- Completed a 6-month strategic planning process in which we sought the input of legislators, partner organizations, current and past MUUSAN leaders, and every person on our email “membership” list, resulting in a three-year plan\* on which implementation is well underway;
- Established an endowment account through the UUA with funds received in connection with the dissolution of the former Northern New England District, projected to produce an income of approximately \$4,000/yr;
- Created an electoral justice organizing plan for UUtheVoteME, launching in June and continuing through the November 2022 midterm elections; and
- Hired a halftime Administrative Coordinator to better serve our legislative ministry after two years of struggling without regular staff support. (Are we ever relieved!)

To make a one-time or recurring donation via credit card or bank transfer (EFT), please visit [muusan.org](https://muusan.org) and click on the DONATE button, or go directly to our donation portal at [www.muusan.kindful.com](https://www.muusan.kindful.com). Checks can be mailed to:

MUUSAN P.O. Box 8 Augusta ME 04332

Please contact us with any questions at [admin@muusan.org](mailto:admin@muusan.org). Thank you!

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