- Are you familiar with the Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General audit that was released today? Yes.
- What is your reaction to the audit? It appears to be the normal findings of many audit reports. Just look at other audits that are posted on the DOJ-OIG website. There are recommendations that need to be addressed with the Department of Justice. I am sure we will be working with them to close the open recommendations in the audit report. Is the tribe concerned? The tribe is concerned that the media is not addressing the real issue. What is NOT in this report? For over a year, there have been allegations made about the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and our finances. Does this report state anything about any missing money? Does this report do anything to address the media frenzy caused by the local media jumping on the bandwagon of a false report filed by the Human Rights Watch? The more important issue is what is NOT included.
- Who wrote the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's response to the audit that is included in the document released today? (It can be found here: Tribal finance staff members. https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2016/g6016005.pdf)
- Is the tribe working with counsel? If so, who? Not at this time.
- The tribe's response notes many different audits that occurred last summer (BIA, DOI, IRS, DOJ). Why is this occurring? On April 23, 2015 Vice Chairman Kevin Wright issued a letter to Department of Interior Assistant Secretary, Kevin Washburn asking that Federal Funds be suspended until he and other Tribal Council members gain control. This triggered an onslaught of inquiries from Federal Agencies. Is the tribe concerned? The Tribe is always concerned when Local, State, and National media manipulate information to paint us in a bad light. A fair and balanced media response would be welcomed. We look forward to the completion of these audits and exoneration of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. Just remember look for what is NOT in the reports!