

**The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

NUMBER 2000-17
PRESERVATION OF NATIVE LANGUAGES

WHEREAS,

the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 400,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS,

The federal government of the United States has a relationship with Native American governments who have an interest in preserving and enhancing their languages to ensure the survival and continued vitality of their precious and ancient tongues; and

WHEREAS,

The Five Civilized Tribes have unique and historical languages that have survived for generations through the teaching of the elders; and

WHEREAS,

The Five Civilized Tribes have a deep concern in preserving the Native languages in providing tribally specific language programs that will be accessible for all age groups; and

WHEREAS,

The Five Civilized Tribes are in jeopardy of losing their Native languages due to the limited number of fluent speakers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes do hereby let it be known that they actively support the development and implementation of tribal language presentation programs.

CERTIFICATION

Adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma meeting at the Choctaw Community Center, McAlester, Oklahoma on July 7, 2000, by a vote of 23 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Chadwick Smith Signed
Chadwick Smith, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Greg E. Pyle Signed
Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation

Perry Beaver Signed
Perry Beaver, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Jerry Haney Signed
Jerry Haney, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation

Kennedy Brown Signed for
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation