

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in Support for the National Native American Boarding School Coalition and the Request to the United States Congress to Investigate and Report on the Effects of the Forcible Removal of Children and Subsequent Abuse and Neglect Resulting from the Boarding School Policy or Peace Policy Adopted and Implemented during the 19th and 20th Centuries

Resolution No. 14-30



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Principal Chief



George Tiger
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS, the United States at the urging of and in support of the Christian Churches of that time adopted the Indian Civilization Fund Act of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to “civilize” Native American children through education which was intended to eradicate Native American culture; and

WHEREAS, in 1869 the United States, in concert with and at the urging of several denominations of the Christian Church, adopted the Indian the Boarding School Policy and the Peace Policy which was a deliberate policy of cultural genocide through the removal and reprogramming of Native American children to accomplish the systematic destruction of indigenous cultures and communities; and

WHEREAS, between 1869 and the 1960s at least 100,000 Native American children were removed from their homes and families, often involuntarily, and placed in Boarding Schools far from their homes which were operated by the federal government and the churches, funded by the federal government, where the children were punished for speaking their native language, banned from acting in any way that might be seen to represent traditional or cultural practices, stripped of traditional clothing, hair and all things and behaviors reflective of their native culture, shamed for being Native American and commonly abused and neglected by inadequate and hostile staff; and

WHEREAS, the prevailing attitudes of the time allowed neglect and abuse of children who were overseen but not parented, who were bullied and assaulted not only by the adults but also by older children under the modeling and instruction of the caretakers and staff, and who were neglected *en masse* by the denial of adequate food and medical care. These children observed and suffered physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, punishment by

physical restraints, beatings and isolation in inhospitable surroundings, including unlighted cellars and unventilated outbuildings designed as jails; and

WHEREAS, these children, their children and now their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have become the legacy of the boarding schools and the federal policy that established and sustained those schools, where the trauma the children suffered has gone unrecognized and unresolved, and the trauma is passed onto each subsequent generation where this historical and inter-generational trauma continues to work in, undermine and devastate Native American individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, neither the United States nor any national denomination of the Christian churches in the United States has offered a meaningful apology or offered to provide any redress for the generations of harm caused by the deliberate imposition of the policy of cultural genocide on the Native American children, families, communities, tribes, Pueblos or Alaskan Villages; and

WHEREAS, the facts and history about the pervasive harm caused and continuing to be caused by the trauma and ongoing intergenerational trauma attributable to the Boarding School Policy are poorly understood by the American public, the National Churches, the Congress or the Executive Branch of the federal government; and

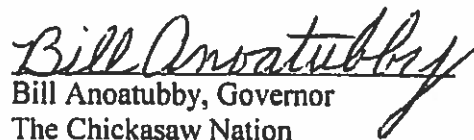
WHEREAS, in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and enduring as a result of the Boarding School Policy, a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the Policy: such study should include complete documentation of the events that took place at each of the schools, the fate of each of the students, the gathering of testimony from those who suffered from abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for healing and reconciliation; now


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the ITC does hereby support the creation of a comprehensive national study, to be concluded by issuance of a report on the implementation and continuing impacts of American Indian Boarding School Policy which provides complete documentation of the events that took place at each of the schools, the fate of each of the students, the gathering of testimony from those who suffered from abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered

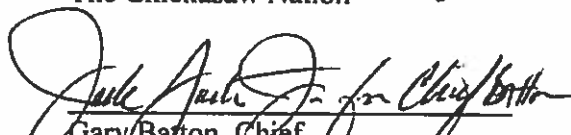
from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for redress, healing and reconciliation.

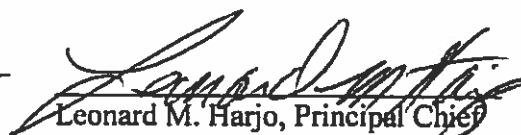
CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 10th day of October, 2014, by a vote of 5 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary (Baton), Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation