



NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Presentation Before
Federal Relations and
American Indian Affairs
Committee**



NC Commission of Indian Affairs

- Created under NC GS 143B-404 in 1971, by NC General Assembly
- The Commission is housed within the NC Department of Administration, in Raleigh, North Carolina



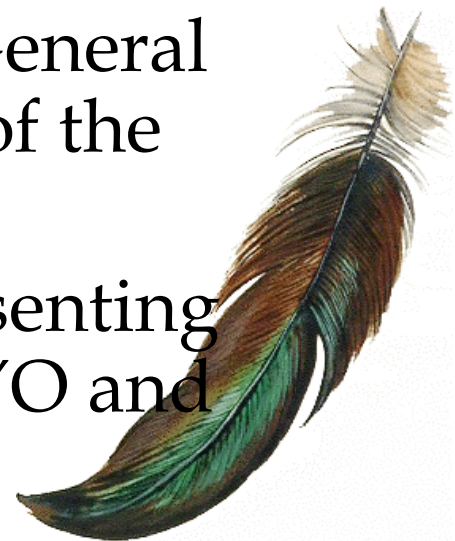
Commission's Statutory Purposes (NC GS 143B-405)

- To deal fairly and effectively with Indians
- To bring local, state, and federal resources into the state
- To provide aid and protection as needs are demonstrated
- To prevent undue hardships, etc.
- To educate state citizens about American Indians



Commission Membership (NCGS 143B-407)

- **Thirty Members**
- **Twenty-One Indian Members** representing Indian Tribes and Associations
- **Five State Officials** serve on Commission by virtue of their elected or appointed office in state government
- **Two members** appointed by the NC General Assembly (President Senate/Speaker of the House)
- **Two ex-officio Youth Members** representing Indian student organizations (NCNAYO and NCNACOHE)



Tribal Membership on Commission

- Tribes elect or appoint members to the Commission.
- Tribes determine how members are Elected or appointed to the Commission.
- Tribes develop their rules and procedures on how members are elected or appointed.

State Recognized Tribes In North Carolina

Eight (8) State Recognized Tribes

Ref: Chapter 71A, NC GS

Tribes Seated on Commission

(NCGS 143B-407)

Tribes (8)

- **Coharie**
- **Eastern Band of the Cherokee**
- **Haliwa-Saponi**
- **Sappony**
- **Lumbee Tribe of NC**
- **Meherrin**
- **Waccamaw-Siouan**
- **Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation**

Primary Geographic Counties

- **Harnett & Sampson**
- **Graham, Jackson, Swain**
- **Halifax & Warren**
- **Person**
- **Hoke, Robeson and Scotland**
- **Hertford, Bertie**
- **Bladen & Columbus**
- **Alamance and Orange**



Urban Associations Seated on Commission

Associations (4)

- **Cumberland County Association for Indian People**
- **Guilford Native American Association**
- **Metrolina Native American Association**
- **Triangle Native American Society**

Primary Geographic Area

- Cumberland County
- Guilford County
- Mecklenburg County
- Wake



North Carolina's American Population

122,000 - 2010 US Census
(American Indian Alone)

Population in Combination with others
183,000 plus-

Source 2010 US Census

State Recognized Tribes in United States

**63 State Recognized Tribes in the United
States**

(Representing in 11 States)

Federally Recognized Tribes in United States

**573 Federally Recognized Tribes
in the United States**

Federally Recognized Tribes in North Carolina

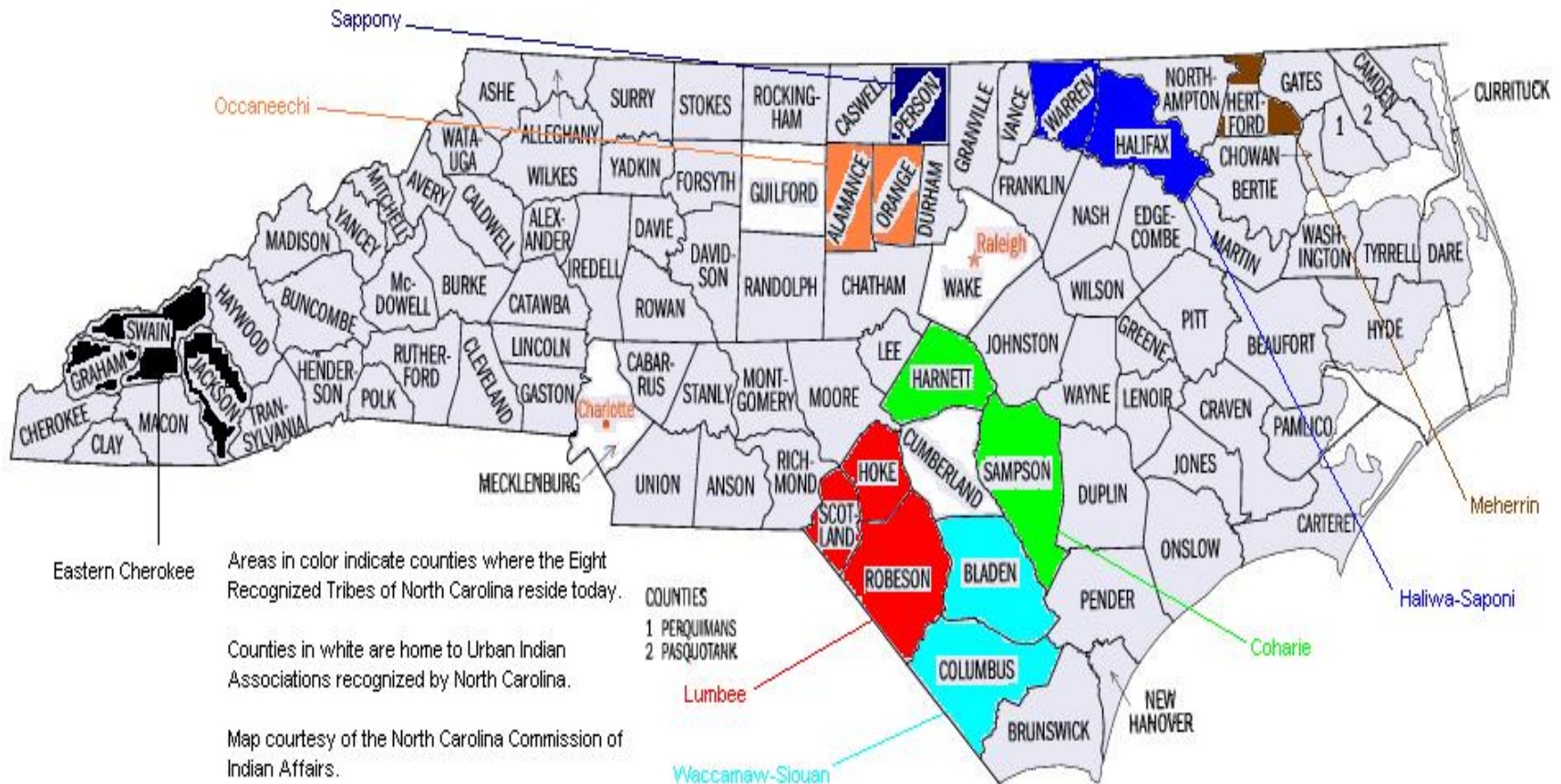
1 Eastern Band of Cherokee

1 Tribe has Quasi Federal Recognition

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Lumbee Act of 1956

Snapshot of North Carolina's Tribal Communities



Things to know about American Indians/Tribes

There are three legal categories of Indian Tribes in the United States:

- **Federally Recognized Tribes**
- **State Recognized Tribes**
- **Un-Recognized Indian Groups**

Tribal Sovereignty

- Tribes are sovereign in that they determining their own form of government, membership, geographic area etc.
- The US Constitution recognizes Indian tribes, foreign nations and states as sovereign entities.
- Additionally, tribal sovereignty is referenced in many treaties, Presidential Executive Orders, etc.



Examples of State Legislation Impacting Tribes and American Indians

- NC Commission of Indian Affairs – Legislation - 1972
- Indian Gaming Compact - Cherokee Tribe
- State Recognition Legislation
- NC Indian Housing Authority-Indian Housing Legislation
- State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) Legislation



State Recognition

- NCGS 143B-406 (9)
- Authorizes the NC Commission of Indian Affairs to establish procedures governing state recognition



State Recognition - NC

- Authorizes tribes to set legal tribal territory/ Boundaries
- Authorizes tribes to elect or appoint a member to the Commission and other agencies
- Extends authority to tribes to compete for state and federal Indian set-aside funding
- Enhances the Government-to- Government relationship with Indian tribes



Example - Federal Programs Authorized For State Recognized Indians

- US Department of Labor (WIOA, Section 166-477) – USDOL Set Aside Program
- Native American Housing and Self Determination Act - HUD Set Aside Program (NAHASDA)
- US Department of Education (Title VI- Indian Education Program)



Issues Impacting American Indians

- **COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **Educational Attainment**
- **Access to Jobs-Rural Communities**
- **Unemployment-Rural Communities**
- **Health Care and Access to Health Care**

Programs Administered By The Commission

- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA, Section 166)
- Community Development
- Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS)
- Section 8 Housing Rent Assistance
- Indian Child Welfare
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault



State Government and Indians Tribes

- States Can Recognize Indian Tribes
- States Can Establish Procedures for the Recognition of Tribes.
- State General Assemblies can Establish Legislative Caucuses or Committees



Other Example of State legislation which Impact NC Indians

- Unmarked Human Burial and Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act
- North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 70, Article 3
- Violation of the provisions of G.S. 70-37(a) is a Class H felony
- No person may excavate, remove, damage or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on state lands without a permit.

Question and Answers

- Are American Indians US Citizens?
- How many federally recognized tribes are in the US?
- How many state recognized tribes are in North Carolina?
- Does each tribe have a distinct heritage, language, culture?
- What is an American Indian Pow-wow?

Questions and Answers

- Do you refer to American Indians as “Native American” or American Indian”
- Is it appropriate to refer to your American Indian friend as “Chief”
- Is it appropriate to use American Indian stereotypes/Mascots/Costumes ?
- Is it appropriate to refer to an American Indian Woman as Pocahontas?



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