



Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
(918) 762-3621
communications@pawneenation.org

For Immediate Release

**LACK OF FEDERAL AND TRIBAL FUNDING RESULTS IN
REORGANIZATION OF THE PAWNEE NATION'S CULTURAL
RESOURCES DIVISION**

Pawnee, Oklahoma, January 11, 2019 — Due to financial cuts and changes in Federal policy in 2017, the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma announces its decision to reorganize its Cultural Resource Division (CRD), effective immediately.

The Nation's loss of financial resources has caused a temporary reorganization of the Cultural Resource Division. The temporary reorganization shall remain in effect, until the tribe secures future funding. The CRD's programs will continue operating within the Nation on a limited basis, until the financial resources return; depending on the outcome of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) class action court case and other available resources.

The CRD Division received funding through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), and 36 CFR Part 800. Cell phone companies were required to identify, assess the effects of its actions, and consult with tribes regarding historic tribal buildings and lands. These companies were subject to a consultation fee but based on the recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 2017 ruling, the fee is no longer required. Funds accumulated by consulting fees were pertinent to the funding of the program.

The ruling has removed tribal involvement in ground disturbance or Rights of Way decisions, related to the impacts of wireless infrastructure development on historical and cultural properties.

Ultimately, the lack of financial resources available to the Nation has resulted in the temporary reorganization of the CRD Program.

The CRD's Division Director, Herb Adson resigned from his position effective January 31, 2019. Mr. Adson has served in the capacity of Division Director of Cultural Resources, since recruited in January 2016. The Pawnee Nation is very appreciative of Herb Adson's strong leadership and devotion towards our culture, and the respective division. As the first CRD Division Director, he has strengthened the division's

departments and has recruited good people, and as he exits, he is definitely leaving the program stronger. The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma thanks Mr. Adson for his leadership and service to the Nation.

The CRD also employed a full-time Administrative Assistant, Martha Only A Chief, whom has made many great contributions to the program, as well. This is one of the positions that is being impacted by the reduction of funds; however, Martha will maintain her employment in the Cultural Resources Division, as she has been promoted to the NAGPRA Project Coordinator position, effective January 10th, 2019. While it is unfortunate to lose two vital positions, we are excited to announce that the critical functions, regarding Tribal Historic Preservation and Native American Graves Act (NAGPRA), will continue.

The CRD was established in January 2016 to oversee tribal cultural development and preservation. The CRD houses the language classes, the Museum, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), the Native American Graves Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), repatriation responsibilities and other culturally significant activities.

While this reorganization has resulted in staffing changes, to keep CRD vital, the Pawnee Nation will continue to pursue new avenues of obtaining resources to restore the funding of the division.

###

**Inquires can be directed to the
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
www.pawneenation.org**

Official announcement from the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma.