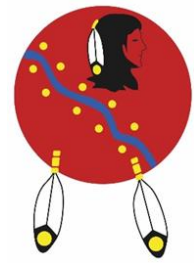


# PEE DEE INDIAN TRIBE

## 2018 STATE OF THE TRIBE ADDRESS



Cenkololo and Happy New Year to each and every one of you! Today, it is my honor to update you all as to the state of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe (PDIT). Throughout 2017 we as a tribe achieved many accomplishments. We cleared out several acres on the McColl tract of tribal land, as well as built a picnic and recreation area there. The Pee Dee Raccoon Dancers and Singers were established as cultural ambassadors as part of the tribal government's responsibility to create new policies and establish additional programs that educate our youngest generation of members and the general public as to the resilient history and continued cultural traditions of the Pee Dee people. They, along with PDIT Government Officials traveled to multiple public outreach events, and we will all be seeing much more from them in 2018.

The PDIT Government recently partnered with multiple American Indian advocacy organizations regarding a toy drive that benefited numerous Pee Dee families. Future partnerships such as these will continue to be sought after by the tribe in order to cultivate fruitful relationships that will help connect the Pee Dee people to all possible available resources.

The PDIT Government is tasked with enhancing the daily lives of the Pee Dee people by fostering growth in such diverse areas as education, health, socioeconomics, cultural enrichment & environmental conservation. Implementing various outreach programs aimed at improving the overall quality of life of tribal members remains the tribal government's centric focus. With that said, the PDIT Government established new relationships and strengthened existing ones with many of the state's colleges. University of South Carolina Aiken, University of South Carolina Upstate and University of South Carolina Lancaster each graciously hosted PDIT Government Officials for multiple events. The many long term implications as a result of these partnerships have the potential to greatly impact the access to secondary educational institutions for many PDIT members.

Additionally, in 2018 the tribe has agreed to partner with the University of South Carolina Lancaster Native American Studies Center regarding an exhibit that highlights the history and culture of the Pee Dee people and the tribe. This exhibit will provide the tribe with excellent exposure and will allow the tribe to showcase the beauty of Pee Dee culture.

In an effort to improve transparency and streamline communications, the PDIT Government has launched a new tribal website ([www.peedeetribe.org](http://www.peedeetribe.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/peedeelndiantribe](https://www.facebook.com/peedeelndiantribe)). Additionally, we have established a main terminus for tribal government email communications ([government@peedeetribe.org](mailto:government@peedeetribe.org)). Emails sent to this email address will be forwarded to the correct tribal department and personnel. From an external perspective, this allows the tribe to accurately convey a

professional and modern image. The PDIT Government is also taking steps to promote greater financial transparency and to enact a series of checks and balances that will increase accountability for all those entrusted with ensuring the tribe's financial security. These new measures will also allow the tribal government to better follow accounting recommendations and policies that are widely considered to be "industry best practices".

The PDIT Government has also begun initial consultations and surveys regarding the "Pee Dee Tribal Mounds". Once completed, the mounds will become the cultural and spiritual center for the tribe, and as such will host a variety of tribal functions, celebrations and cultural events. There will be two mounds. A larger mound, with a carved totem sitting atop of it, & a fairly small, minor mound consisting of a fire pit atop of it. We feel that the mounds will be the primary catalyst for many of our future cultural revitalization plans. Once a completion date can be more accurately established, one will be provided. A tribal medicine wheel made of stones collected from the Pee Dee region has been discussed and remains a project for future consideration once the mounds have been constructed.

In a continued effort to work with the city, county, state & federal governments, the tribe anticipates working with the US Census Bureau regarding the 2020 Census, as well as collaborating with other government departments regarding variety of other projects, issues and topics.

As mentioned in December of 2017, the roll of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe has been closed due to exciting, but significant reorganization efforts within our Enrollment Office. New tribal identification cards have been designed, and once the many logistics surrounding the possible change have been ironed out more information will be released. The prototype cards have a completely new design/layout & are printed on durable PVC, contain a holographic overlay, & will convey an image of professionalism & modernization to all who see it.

An additional part of our reorganization efforts within the Enrollment Office are our efforts surrounding the "Revised 1976 Federal Pee Dee Roll". This will be the final roll of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe and will supersede and invalidate all prior rolls regarding enrollment eligibility. Additionally, it will serve as the base roll in which all future tribal members must have a direct ancestor listed on. Given that this is a significant undertaking, it will take several months to complete. New BIA compliant forms will need to be filled out by members and the re-enrollment period is expected to be around 3 months. This is not an attempt at mass disenrollment. Rather it is a needed task that must be completed if the tribe is to limit liability regarding tribal resources/assets and achieve BIA acknowledgement compliance. Tribal government representatives recently met with legal experts regarding our federal acknowledgement efforts. Their primary recommendations were to immediately close the roll and to create a single base roll. We must do these two things if we are to ever stand a chance of achieving federal acknowledgement. More information regarding this substantial but hugely important undertaking will be released in the very near future. The PDIT Government wants to reiterate that this is in no way an attempt at mass disenrollment, rather it is an attempt to help us all move forward together in a joint effort to achieve many of the tribe's long term goals.

2018 is going to be a busy but extremely exciting year for the Pee Dee Indian Tribe. It is a great time to be Pee Dee. The PDIT Government asks for your patience & understanding as will navigate the year ahead. We are working extremely hard on behalf of the Pee Dee people & we are confident that 2018 will be one of the best and most momentous of years ever for the tribe. On behalf of the Government of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, may the Creator bless all of you & may he help guide our tribe to a prosperous & wonderful 2018.

Mvto,

Chief Pete Parr