North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006

State of North Carolina
Michael F. Easley, Governor

N.C. Department of Administration
Britt Cobb, Secretary
McKinley Wooten, Deputy Secretary for Internal Services and Programs

N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs
Paul Brooks, Chairman
Gregory A. Richardson, Executive Director
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**HISTORY AND PURPOSE**

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was created in 1971 by the North Carolina General Assembly in response to the requests of concerned Indian citizens from across the state. The commission was established pursuant to North Carolina General Statute’s 143B-404 through 143B-411. Specifically, the commission was created to:

- Deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs
- Bring local, state and federal resources into focus for the implementation or continuation of meaningful programs for the state's Indian citizens
- Provide aid and protection for Indians as needs are demonstrated
- Assist Indian communities in social and economic development
- Promote recognition of and the right of Indians to pursue their cultural and religious traditions

The commission has eight statutory duties outlined in its enabling legislation as follows:

- Study, consider, accumulate, compile, assemble and disseminate information on Indian affairs
- Investigate relief needs of Indians and assist in preparation of plans for the alleviation of such needs
- Confer with appropriate officials of local, state and federal governments
- Review all legislation concerning Indians
- Conduct public hearings on matters relating to Indian affairs and subpoena any information deemed necessary
- Study the existing status of recognition of all Indian groups, tribes and communities
- Establish appropriate procedures for legal recognition by the state and provide for official recognition
- Initiate procedures for recognition by the federal government

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is to instill a positive vision for American Indians through preserving cultural identity by promoting and advocating the rights, beliefs and opportunities which impact quality of life.
GOALS

♦ Increase and maximize educational opportunities for American Indians in North Carolina.
♦ Increase the economic self-sufficiency of American Indians in North Carolina and maximize Indian economic development initiatives.
♦ Achieve parity in employment for Indians of North Carolina.
♦ Improve the health status of American Indians in North Carolina.
♦ Increase the public awareness of American Indians.
♦ Provide for the state and/or federal recognition of North Carolina Indian tribes.
♦ Promote recognition of and the right of Indians to pursue cultural and religious traditions considered by them to be sacred and meaningful and to promote public understanding and appreciation of Indian culture.

The membership of the commission is composed of 19 representatives from 12 North Carolina Indian tribes and/or organizations, five state officials and an appointee of both the speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives and the lieutenant governor. Ex-officio members include representatives from two statewide youth organizations, the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) and the North Carolina Native American Council on Higher Education (NCNACOHE).

The commission operates under the direction and supervision of the North Carolina Department of Administration pursuant to G.S. 143A - 6(b) and (c) and is one of seven advocacy agencies currently housed within the department. The commission employs an executive director to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities and business of the commission. The executive director serves at the pleasure of the commission membership and is subject to legislative or other funds that would accrue to the commission. The executive director is empowered to hire additional staff and consultants to assist in the discharge of his responsibilities, as determined by the commission, in accordance with the administrative, budget and management policies of the North Carolina Department of Administration. Additionally, the executive director performs all other administrative duties under the guidance of the secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, with respect to state regulations, statutes and general government policy.

In the performance of its duties, the commission held four quarterly meetings in SFY 2005-2006. These meetings were held on September 2005, December 2005, March 2006, and June 2006. The quarterly meetings were held for the purpose of addressing issues of concern to the Indian citizens of North Carolina, the development of policies and/or programs necessary to alleviate the social and economic problems of the state's American Indian population, and the review of commission service program activities. Reports were also heard from the commission’s standing committees (see Appendix 2)
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In 1971, the commission received its first appropriation of $12,500 from the North Carolina General Assembly. Since that time, state support has been expanded and federal funding of service programs has been secured.

Commission staff administers programs and delivers services. The staff conducts other major activities and initiatives as well as those required by General Statutes. The majority of the staff administers programs and services supported by federal grants. State funds supported seven staff positions including the executive director, two clerical positions, three community developers and an economic developer.

Descriptions of the activities, services and programs sponsored by the commission during SFY 2005-2006 follow:

NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FUNDING SUMMARY 2005-2006

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>APPROPRIATION</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
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COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

The Community Services Program provides in-home aide services and/or volunteer transportation for the elderly and disabled in Bladen, Columbus, Halifax, Warren, Cumberland, Sampson and Harnett counties. The program also provides oversight for a hot meals program, which consist of over 6,400 meals for elderly and physically challenged Indian senior citizens in Sampson County, North Carolina. The program is funded through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) DSS - Division of Aging.

In 2005-2006, the Community Services Program staff included a director, and six half-time in-home aide employees. In addition, two community developer positions supported by state funds are permanently assigned to the program and work directly in the local community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Economic Development Program provides the following services:

- Information and referral assistance to the states’ American Indian tribes and organizations in the development of economic opportunities upon request
- Information and referral assistance to Indian citizens in the development, improvement and/or expansion of businesses upon request
- Assisting in the development of economic development enterprises for the state's American Indian population such as the North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative.

Supporting our Native Students Program (SONS). Education is the key to wealth and prosperity and with this goal in mind, the commission continued to administer the (SONS) program in 2005-2006. The goal of the program is to provide an educational opportunity for American Indians whose educational and socio-economic backgrounds might otherwise prevent them from successfully attending and succeeding in college.

The SONS Program is a college educational access and retention program. The purpose of the program is to identify qualified American Indian students enrolled in an accredited Community College or University and assist them in pursuit of their educational goals. Students are required to complete an application process, meet income eligibility requirements, maintain a minimum grade point average and be an enrolled member of a North Carolina state-recognized tribe. The program is funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CSBG). A total of 51 applicants applied for the program, 45 were determined eligible and three students graduated during this fiscal year.

The Economic Development Director is responsible for producing the Commission’s newsletter, Indian Time and assists with grant writing activities at the Commission. She also serves as staff support to the commission's Economic Development and Employment Committee, Culture and Religion Committee and the North Carolina Indian Senior Citizens Coalition.
EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program provides one-on-one educational and career counseling to Indian youth ages 11 to 27 in the counties of Columbus, Halifax, Hoke, Sampson and Warren. Program guidelines require that two-thirds of the program's participants be first generation college and come from families with low incomes. High dropout rates, low competency test scores and high unemployment rates are all characteristics of the Indian population in the program's target counties.

Talent Search staff made visits to schools in each target county and presented programs designed to help students improve their academic performance, enhance their self-esteem, broaden their career awareness and understand financial aid. Study skills improvement workshops were conducted in each of the program's target counties and high school students in each county had the opportunity to participate in workshops designed to teach test-taking skills for pre-college admission tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

The program sponsored tours of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, North Carolina State University and East Carolina University. During the tours, students met with representatives of each institution's admissions and financial aid offices to discuss enrollment requirements and campus life.

Financial aid workshops were conducted in each tribal community in February and March for juniors and seniors along with their parents. The purpose of the workshops was to inform students and parents about the different types of financial aid available and how to apply for federal aid. Counselors assisted parents in the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The workshops were well attended.

Students from all counties were afforded the opportunity to attend numerous cultural events. Twenty students attended a two-day Leadership Development Conference sponsored by the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Twelve students attended the Youth Legislative Assembly and were afforded the opportunity to act as a state representative, debate and vote in a mock legislation session.

A College Survival Skills Workshop was provided for ETS students who new high school graduates were planning to attend college in the fall. The workshop was conducted during a trip to Cherokee, NC and Gatlinburg, TN. While in Cherokee, students were guests at “Unto These Hills” outdoor drama and toured the Oconaluftee Indian Village. The workshop focused on providing information to ensure a successful transition from high school into college life, a round table discussion of expectations and fears about college life and featured a discussion of the freshman year by current college students.

A High School Survival Skills Workshop was provided for ETS students who had completed the eighth grade and were promoted to high school. The workshop was held on the UNC Charlotte campus and was attended by 50 rising 9th graders who learned different study strategies, how to take notes and how to “survive and thrive” in high school. Upon the completion of the workshop, the students were treated to a day visit to Carowinds Amusement Park and visits to the Lowes Motor Speedway and Hendricks Motor Sports facility in Charlotte.

The program director is the adult adviser to the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) and coordinates their annual conference, which was attended by 275 youth on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Approximately 325 Indian youth and adults attended the four-day
conference. Highlights included a “College Fair” with representatives from 25 colleges and 5 community colleges, general assembly sessions, “words of wisdom from the council of elders,” workshops, princess pageant, powwow, awards banquet, social dance and recreational activities.

Educational Talent Search Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is staffed by a project director, three counselors and one secretary. The program served a total of 659 participants during the year.

**AMERICAN INDIAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The commission’s employment and training program funded under Title I, Section 166 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides job training and employment opportunities to unemployed, underemployed, and low-income American Indians in North Carolina. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2005-2006, the program service area was 59 of the 100 counties of the state. Six North Carolina Indian tribes or urban center organizations designated as Indian WIA grantees by the U.S. Department of Labor served the remaining 41 counties. The chart on the following page indicates the client participation within the specific components of the commission’s WIA program.

**Skills Training**

This component emphasized vocational training for the program's target population. There are 59 community colleges in the state. Each community college designs its own areas of vocational training based on the needs and employment opportunities of the area served. The choice of vocational training is left to the individual participants with the guidance and approval of program staff and community college guidance counselors.

**Adult Work Experience**

Many of the program's applicants lack a high school diploma. Under the Adult Work Experience component, participants with a high school diploma were placed in 40-hour-per-week work experience slots. Those Adult Work Experience participants without high school diplomas were placed in 25-hour-per-week work experience slots and attended adult basic education classes 15 hours per week. The majority of Adult Work Experience participants continued in the WIA program by enrolling in the Skills Training component.

The WIA Director also serves as staff support to the commission's Economic Development and Employment Committee. A director and two manpower developers staffed the WIA program in SFY 2005-2006.

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs as a public housing agency (PHA) in 1976. This designation gave the commission authority to provide rent assistance through the operation of a Section 8 Housing Assistance Program to eligible Indian and non Indian families through Annual Contributions Contracts with HUD. The purpose of the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program is to provide safe, decent, sanitary housing for eligible families regardless of race, religion or political affiliation. Program funds are used to subsidize the difference between the cost of rent and a maximum of 30 percent of the household’s adjusted gross income. Currently the program has ACCs for 1
“Choice Voucher” project. To be eligible to receive Housing Choice Voucher assistance the gross income of a family must fall within established HUD guidelines.

Program Components

The Voucher Component is currently funded to support 936 families. Voucher contracts allow the program to pay up to the fair market rent for a rental unit. Under the “Choice Voucher” Program the family must pay their portion of the rent as outlined in the program contract with the landlord.

Service Area

The commission provides rent assistance in the counties of Granville, Hoke, Person, Sampson and Warren. The also provides rent assistance in Columbus and Halifax counties through a special agreement with local Public Housing Agencies (PHA’s)

The program was administered by a director, three housing inspectors and three clerical support staff SFY 2005-2006.

STATE RECOGNITION

The Commission has administered state recognition procedures since 1976, under N.C.G.S. 143B-406, as provided for under Chapter 15 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. A twelve-member State Recognition Committee oversees the process. The committee is composed of representatives of the state and federally recognized Indian tribes and urban Indian organization holding membership on the commission. The most recent tribes recognized by the commission are; the Meherrin Indian Tribe of Hertford County -1986, the Triangle Native American Society, Inc. (an urban Indian center organization) – March 2000, and the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation was recognized February 2002 by Orange County Superior Court Order, issued in accordance with a decision rendered by the North Carolina Court of Appeals, granting legal recognition of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.

The rules which govern the process for state recognition of American Indian tribes may be found at the following website: [http://www.doa.state.nc.us/cia/legal.pdf](http://www.doa.state.nc.us/cia/legal.pdf). The N.C. Rules Review Commission approves all administrative rules for state agencies as required by the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings and in accordance with the N.C. Administrative Procedures Act. The tribal recognition procedures were established as administrative rules in November 1976, and amended by the Commission of Indian Affairs in 1988, 1999, and February 2006.
C O N F E R E N C E S  A N D  S P E C I A L  E V E N T S

Each year the commission co-sponsors many activities and events in collaboration with tribes and organizations. Additionally, the commission provides staff support for Indian conferences, workshops and other special events.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE

The 31st Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, March 2006. United Tribes of North Carolina sponsored the conference, in collaboration with the commission and tribes and organizations. The conference attracted over 400 participants. Commission staff coordinated various conference activities such as the exhibition and conference facilities; served as facilitators, moderators, recorders and/or speakers at various workshops and general assemblies; assisted with conference registration; and supervised conference security.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN YOUTH UNITY CONFERENCE

“Preserving our Past – Weaving our Future” was the theme of the 27th Annual North Carolina Indian Youth Unity Conference held June 13 – 16, 2006 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Co-sponsored by the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs’ Educational Talent Search Program, this event was attended by over 325 Indian youth and adults representing Indian tribes and organizations from across the state of North Carolina. The highlight of the conference was a College Fair with 30 colleges represented. Other special events included a powwow, Mister and Miss NCNAYO pageants, talent show, basketball tournament, an awards banquet, and art and essay contests. Three $500 college scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors at the conference.

INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Honorable Governor Michael F. Easley proclaimed the month of November as Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina by an official proclamation during the fiscal year. The 2006 Indian Heritage Month kickoff celebration was held in conjunction with the American Indian celebration at the North Carolina Museum of History. United Tribes of North Carolina commissioned a poster for Indian Heritage Month and the commission coordinated numerous activities associated with Indian Heritage Month.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN SENIOR CITIZENS CONFERENCE

In recognition of the NC Indian Senior Citizens Coalition “Celebrating 26 Years Together” the NC Commission of Indian Affairs sponsored an American Indian Senior Citizens Health Summit in November 2006 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The topics on the agenda included disease prevention, nutrition, physical activity, crime prevention and safety.
Participants were also treated to mini day spa services and massages. A highlights of the summit included the quilt show, banquet, fashion show and crowning of Ms. Indian Senior Citizen Queen. Approximately 300 seniors took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about their health and nutritional needs.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (NCIEDI)

The NC Indian Economic Initiative (NCIEDI) is a 501 C-3 corporation established in 2001 by a Commission Task Force. The NCIEDI was an outgrowth of the Commission’s Year 2000 Strategic Plan and was developed for the purpose of addressing Indian Economic Development issues, to provide direct services such as business assistance, business planning, financial guidance etc.

NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN INDIAN FUND INITIATIVE

The North Carolina American Indian Fund Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Commission and Indian tribes and organizations in North Carolina. The fund was established because the resources for meeting the human and economic needs of Indian communities are very limited. Additionally, the creation of the fund is in response to the need for dedicated funding for scholarships, funding for health, human services, education and tribal organizational infrastructure programs. The Triangle Community Foundation, located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, manages the American Indian Fund. The Warner Foundation provided funding for the development of the Fund.

NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH INITIATIVE:

NC Health & Wellness Trust Fund Commission (NCHWTFC)
American Indian Youth Smoking Cessation Program

The American Indian Health Initiative continued to evolve. As a result of health education around diabetes and other chronic diseases, many Indian churches have implemented health related initiatives such as walking and lifestyle behavior modification. American Indians are smoking less and eating more fruits, vegetables and watching their diets more closely.

The NCHWTFC awarded Tobacco Settlement funds to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs for the purpose of carrying out a teen tobacco anti-smoking cessations program in Indian communities of the state. The Initiative also involves a partnership with Indian Churches through two American Indian Church Associations “the Burnt Swamp Association and the Methodist Cooperative Ministry.” These partnerships are community based and have a capacity to assist the Commission with the implementation of these programs. The program provides an opportunity for the commission to educate tribal members about the risk factors associated with smoking, it educates the Indian community about how to advocate for smoke free policies at cultural activities, tribal buildings, tribal grounds etc. The Commission provides technical assistance to tribes and organizations regarding the development of anti-smoking policies. During this fiscal year, the commission found that a great majority of Indian cultural activities, churches events and cultural activities held became smoke free.

University of West Virginia
Not On Tobacco Program – AI “Hope and Honor”

The Hope and Honor program is funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for a period of three years, through an American Legacy Foundation grant to the University of West Virginia. The commission partnered with the University of West Virginia and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to develop an American Indian Youth Anti-Smoking model, which has come to be a National Model. The National Model has
been by Indian tribes and Indian Organizations in other states. The University continues to publish research articles based on the information collected during this effort.
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs
SFY2005-2006

Officers

Paul Brooks, Chairman
Earlene Stacks, Vice Chairman
Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer

Members

STATE OFFICIALS
State Officials serve on the Commission by virtue of their elected or appointed position in state government (NCGS 143)

North Carolina Department of Administration
Secretary Britt Cobb
Designee: McKinley Wooten

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Designee: Jan Lowery

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources
Secretary William G. Ross, Jr.
Designee: Alex Marks

North Carolina Department of Labor
Commissioner Cherie Berry

Employment Security Commission
Harry Payne, Chairman
Designee: Patrice Fields

President Pro Tem Appointee
Paul Brooks

Speaker of the House Appointee
Ray Littleturtle

AMERICAN INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES
American Indian members are elected to the Commission by tribal or community consent (NCGS 143)

Eastern Band of Cherokee
Patrick Lambert
Vacant (1)

Guilford Native American Association
Nora Dial Stanley
Ruth Revels

Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe
Barry Richardson
Ruth Ealing

Indians of Person County
Shelia Wilson

Lumbee Indian Tribe
Furnie Lambert
J. Garth Locklear
Larece Hunt

Meherrin Indian Tribe
Douglas Patterson

Metrolina Native American Association
Patrick Clark
Earlene Stacks

Waccamaw-Siouan Indian Tribe
Elton Ray Jacobs
Lila Spaulding

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

North Carolina Native American Youth Organization
Elizabeth Lynch, Chair

North Carolina Native American Council on Higher Education
Brandi Brooks
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

September 30, 2005  Raleigh, NC
10:00am – 3:00pm

December 2, 2005  Hollister, NC
10:00am – 3:00pm

March 9, 2006  Held in conjunction with the NC Indian Unity Conference
Raleigh, NC
9:00am – 1:00pm

June 2, 2006  Fayetteville, NC
9:00 am – 3:00pm
STANDING COMMITTEES
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

EXECUTIVE
Paul Brooks, Chair
Earlene Stacks, Vice-Chair
Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer
Ruth R. Ealing
Roy Maynor
J. Garth Locklear
Shelia Wilson
Nora Dial-Stanley
Douglas Patterson
Patrick Lambert
Sharn Jeffries
Brett Locklear
Isabelle Freeman Elliott
Staff:  Gregory Richardson

AUDIT/BUDGET
Ruth R. Ealing, Chair
Patrick Clark, Vice-Chair
Gene Faircloth
Barbara Melvin
Nora Dial Stanley
Ex-Officio Members:  To Be Named by Committee
Staff:  Gregory Richardson

CULTURE AND RELIGION
Ray Littleturtle, Chair
Elton R. Jacobs, Vice-Chair
Isabella Freeman-Elliott
Ruth R. Ealing
Nora Dial-Stanley
Roy Maynor
Furnie Lambert
Ex-Officio Members:  To Be Named by Committee
Staff:  Kimberly Hammonds

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ EMPLOYMENT
Ruth Revels, Chair
Isabella Freeman Elliott
Larece Hunt
Elton R. Jacobs
Ray Littleturtle
Roy Maynor
Lila Spaulding
Barry Richardson
Ex-Officio Members:
Staff:  Elk Richardson and Kim Hammonds

EDUCATION
Earlene Stacks, Chair
Douglas Patterson, Vice-Chair
Isabell Freeman-Elliott
Patrick Clark
Larece Hunt
Barry Richardson
Elton R. Jacobs
Ruth Revels
Ex-Officio Members: Priscilla Maynor
Staff:  Mickey Locklear

HUMAN RESOURCES
Ruth R. Ealing, Chair
Isabella Freeman-Elliott
Ray Littleturtle
J. Garth Locklear
Lila Spaulding
Furnie Lambert
Ex-Officio Members:  To Be Named by Committee
Staff:  W. C. Groves

RECOGNITION
J. Garth Locklear, Chair
Ruth Ealing, Vice-Chair
Gene Faircloth
Larece Hunt
Elton R. Jacobs
Shelia Wilson
Ruth Revels
Douglas Patterson
Earlene Stacks
Nora Dial-Stanley
Brett Locklear
Sharn Jeffries
Patrick Lambert
Ex-Officio Members:  To Be Named by Committee
Staff:  Elk Richardson

AD HOC LEGISLATIVE
Roy Maynor, Chair
Ruth Revels, Vice-Chair
Ruth R. Ealing
Barbara Melvin
Ray Littleturtle
Douglas Patterson
Earlene Stacks
Furnie Lambert
Ex-Officio Members:  To Be Named by Committee
Staff:  Gregory Richardson

AD HOC HEALTH
Jan Lowery, Chair
Shelia Wilson
Barry Richardson
Patrick Clark
Gene Faircloth
Ruth R. Ealing
Lila Spaulding
Ex-Officio Members:  To Be Named by Committee
Staff:  Missy Brayboy
TRIBES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Coharie Indian Tribe
7531 N. U.S. Hwy. 421
Clinton, N.C. 28328
Elizabeth Maynor, Executive Director
PHONE: (910) 564-6909
FAX: (910) 564-2701

Cumberland County Association for Indian People
2173 Downing Road
Fayetteville, N.C. 28301
Gladys Hunt, Executive Director
PHONE: (910) 483-8442
FAX: (910) 483-8742

Eastern Band of Cherokee
P.O. Box 455
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North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs
GHC Report 2007