



*the* Catawba Nation

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### **Catawba Nation Chief and Assistant Chief Elected to Statewide Leadership**

**ROCK HILL, SC-** Last week, the South Carolina Council of Chief's met for its quarterly meeting among state recognized tribal leadership and the federally recognized tribe in the state- the Catawba Nation; to discuss issues being faced in the minority group and knowledge share solutions.

During the meeting Tribal Leadership voted to choose a new Chairman for the Council of Chiefs, to replace Chief Harold Hatcher of the Waccamaw Tribe who is stepping down from the position. The Council elected Catawba Nation Chief Brian Harris to take the new statewide role.

"I am humbled and appreciate this opportunity. I will do the best I can to make sure Native Voices are heard throughout the state of South Carolina. We have got a lot of work to do, so let's work together to get it done," Catawba Chief Brian Harris said.

Waccamaw Chief Hatcher said "I appreciate your guts and willingness to stand up for the state tribes. I am looking forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future."

Also elected to a statewide leadership role within the Council of Chiefs was Catawba Nation Assistant Chief Patricia Leach who will be the Chairperson of the Indian Development Council.

The Council of Chiefs is a division of the SC Indian Affairs Commission where most, but not all the tribal leaders in the state worked on different projects the group believes need change throughout the state. It has never been a chartered entity but only a group of leaders taking on particular tasks. In the past the Council has gotten several laws changed in the state such as the marriage bill, arts and craft bill, state recognition bill; just to name a few.

While the South Carolina Council of Chiefs is not a chartered organization, the plan is to create bylaws and file as a charter in the near future. For now, it is a group of people who are working to make positive changes for Native Americans in South Carolina.

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