

**3/1978 Letter from Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council to
My Dear Fellow Creeks
Muscogee Nation of Florida Technical Assistance Response 2002,
Volume 2, Exhibit 61a**

March 1978

My dear Fellow Creeks:

Maybe your great-grandparents or your great-great grandparents had a point when they did not identify themselves as Indian, however, we recognize their purpose in doing this, they wanted to save their children and grand children undue trouble and hardships that were inflicted on our people some 140 years ago, known as the Removal. By doing this, they also made it hard for the present generation to get rid of that "habit of mind" that keeps them from declaring their Indian heritage--proudly. It is so convenient to "let it go", then complain why other people can get all kinds of government assistance and you can not. The only way an American Indian can help his fellow Indians is to go on record as an Indian. All Creek and other Indian people should let themselves be known as Indians. It makes it harder for other people when a person does not proudly claim his Indian ancestry or does not go on record as doing so. It's true, we have survived all these years without the Federal Recognition but why give up the fight for something that is rightfully ours to begin with. So if you are Creek Indian and haven't declared it, or know others who haven't, maybe your world would be a little better for you to give this matter some thought, and declare yourself as an Indian.

The Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, was created by the Florida House of Representative Bill 2306 in 1975. The purpose of the Council is to enable the Creek Indians and their descendants to enjoy the full benefits of state, local, and federal programs for the economic, social, and cultural advancement of all Creek Indians. The Council has been constantly present (through its delegates) at all major regional and national gatherings of the American Tribes in recent months. We have studied the Federal recognition issues very carefully. June 1978 is the deadline for petitioning for this Federal recognition and for Creeks to be recognized. We must have our own tribal government. Did you know there are over three thousand or more Creek Indians living in the Florida panhandle that are without an elected tribal government that all can acknowledge as their own?

HERE IS THE SITUATION:

1. It is likely there will be only one eastern Creek nation which will be given Federal recognition, however, we should work toward being an individual Creek Band of said nation.
2. In order to be recognized, the Florida Creeks should elect its own tribal Council immediately. Your elected Tribal Council will then be ready for petitioning.
3. Florida Creeks should then go on record as "The Florida Band of Creeks", after electing their Tribal Council.
4. The Florida Band of Creeks should structure its Tribal Council so that it will be able to function efficiently without any loss of time. (See recommended flow chart).

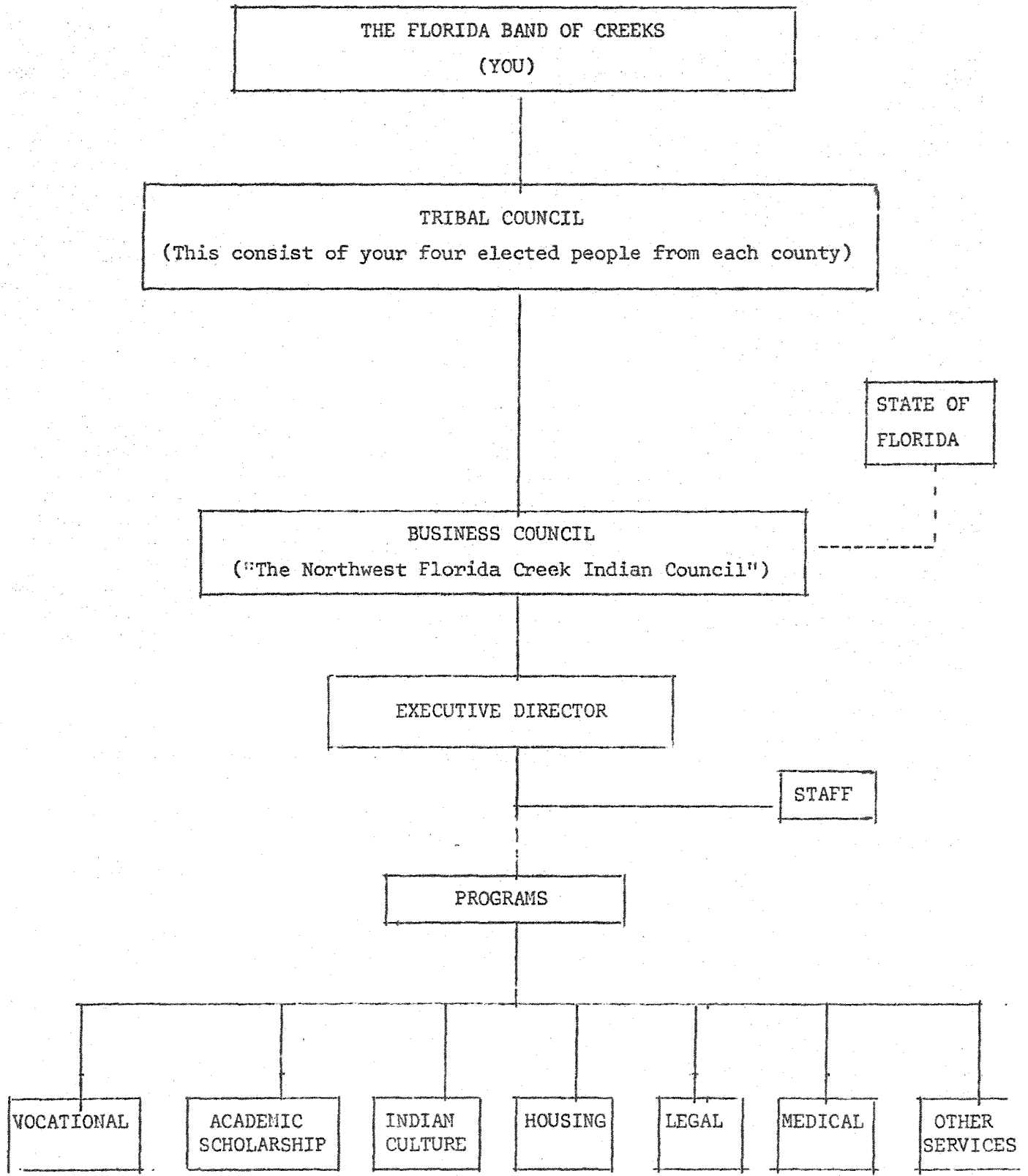
The Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council, as an advisory and an administrative body, can only recommend a workable plan to our people in hopes that the Creek people will see its wisdom and put it into action by attending this meeting for your own benefit. It must be a plan of action that will serve and benefit all Creek Indians.

HERE IS THE ELECTION PLAN the Council recommends:

1. Each county will select six nominees from their county and elect four members to the Tribal Council.
2. Have the official title to be the Tribal Council of the Florida Band of Creeks
3. Adopt the following governmental organization.

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Muscogee Nation of Florida
Petitioner No. 32



4. The present Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council becomes the Business Council which takes its directions from the Tribal Council (your elected delegates).

5. All future nominations to the Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council will come from the candidates elected by you to your Tribal Council and then selected by your Tribal Council. Their names will then be submitted to the Governor of Florida for appointment to sit on the Business Council.

6. Policy and programs needs of the Florida Band of Creeks will be established by the Tribal Council and handed down to the Business Council (Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council) to be administered, grants secured, and programs managed.

7. The Business Council (Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council) will maintain an administrative staff in accordance with the requirements and decisions of the Tribal Council. It will use its authority from the State of Florida on behalf of the will of the people of the Florida Band of Creeks, as expressed through their Tribal Council.

At the forthcoming meetings if these proposals are amended or approved as suggested then a petition will thereafter be drafted for Federal Tribal Recognition as "THE FLORIDA BAND OF CREEKS".

We hope you will seize this opportunity and TAKE ACTION on the proposed election plans, by your attendance at the meeting.

MEETINGS:

All Indian residents of Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties will meet at Pensacola Junior College in the auditorium room number 252 in the Educational TV Building, at 7:00 P.M. on April 7, 1978. Please read over this information very carefully and have your comments written out where you want forget the questions you want answered. See attached directions, for All roads will bring you to the meeting place.

All residents of Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, and Gulf Counties will meet at the Community Center, formerly the old school house in Bruce, Florida, at 5:00 P.M. on April 8, 1978.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AND FOR YOU GETTING TO KNOW US. WE WILL BE THERE. WILL YOU?

The following dates are very important to keep in mind.

All nominees from each county due in by April 18th. to the Council office 414 Plaza Office Bldg., Town & Country Plaza, Pensacola, Fla 32505 or P.O. Box 462 Pensacola, Florida 32592, with closing date 5 P.M. April 21, 1978.

General Election April 29, 1978.

Date for Tribal Council meeting to be discussed at meetings on April 7 and 8, 1978.

Please Bring This Letter With You.
Thanks!