



THE CHICKAMAUGA NATION

Office of the National Chiefs

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Honorable Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, TX 78711-2873

October 16, 2025

Dear Commissioner Buckingham,

I have had great respect for your character and stance for Texas values since you entered the political realm. Your vocal criticism to the Alamo Trust for recognizing Indigenous People's Day rather than Columbus Day by calling it 'unacceptable' and stating "woke has no place at the Alamo", shows ignorance of Texas history and disrespect of the Indigenous people who played a great part in it. Columbus never set foot in continental North America. Indigenous peoples were here long before the Europeans who came as explorers and conquerors.

The Doctrine of Discovery was a Papal Bull promulgated by the Catholic Church in their theft, murder and violation of the Bible itself. This led to the deaths of millions of Indigenous Peoples throughout the western hemisphere. It has since been renounced by the Catholic Church, but the damage was done. It was supposedly used only as a rule for the Catholic faithful, but was in fact used by the non-Catholic nations that emigrated to the west to continue the persecution and genocide of the Indigenous peoples historically. Unfortunately, it continues to this day in its various forms.

True history has nothing to do with "woke" ideology. Calling something "woke" is an attempt to deflect from the truth when taken out of context. A person of Native descent does not make them born "woke". Woke is a wide brush used to describe that which you do not wish to address with dialogue or understanding.

Let us converse in truth through historical facts.

The Alamo was started as the Mision San Antonio de Valero in 1718. Martin de Alarcon was the Spanish governor who led the expedition to establish the mision. Father Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares was the original founding Priest of the Franciscan Order. The Indigenous peoples who built and supported the Alamo were subjected to forced labor (slavery)

SOVEREIGN TREATY TRIBE

Treaties of 1785; 1791; 1792; 1794; 1798; 1804; 1805; 1805; 1806; 1807; 1816; 1816; 1816; 1817; 1819; 1828; 1833;
1835; 1835; 1835, 1836

and conversion. The mission according to the government and Papal approval was convert while utilizing their labor for the Mision's agricultural and construction needs. At this time, by known records, there are about 400 natives buried in the cemetery grounds. More than 100 groups of Natives were known to have been there. The largest grouping of Natives (Indigenous Peoples) were the local Coahuiltecan tribes.

Let us discuss truth in present day. In the city of San Antonio alone, the Indigenous population exceeds 30,000 people, or 1.4% of the present population. Now extend that number throughout the rest of the state; in all major cities down to the smallest towns. We have many more Indigenous people than we do Italian immigrants. Native crops have been repopulated across the globe through trade. The Indigenous People of today are vastly more educated than those of the past, have served in our Armed Forces, our schools, hospitals, and ministry. To denigrate acknowledgment of a particular segment of the population as "woke" because of their heritage is tantamount to denying the Constitution of The United States; where it states in very plain English, That ALL men were created equal, not some, not white, not black, not brown, not yellow, but ALL.

Indigenous people were here first, and are still here. Like it or not. Cities are named after Chiefs or people, cars are named in the same fashion, universities likewise. Being Indigenous does not equal being "woke" in any sense of the word. True history and it's recognition rather than it's fabrication does not equal "woke".

You madam, owe an apology to the good people at the Alamo, the Indigenous population, and to the great people who make up the state of Texas for your outburst, flagrantly insulting millions of people.

With all due respect,

Chief John Stephenson
Southwest Treaty Region

The National Executive Chiefs:
National Antler Chief Jimmie W. Kersh
Central Treaty Region Chief Chuck Allen
South Treaty Region Chief Richard Botts
West Treaty Region Chief Justin Flanagan
North Treaty Region Chief Betty Williams
Southwest Treaty Region Chief John Stephenson
War Chief Dr. Christopher Spruell



SOVEREIGN TREATY TRIBE

Treaties of 1785; 1791; 1792; 1794; 1798; 1804; 1805; 1805; 1806; 1807; 1816; 1816; 1816; 1817; 1819; 1828; 1833;
1835; 1835; 1835, 1836