



25 Main Street
South Grafton, MA 01560
774-317-9138
council@nipucnation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greetings to All Members of the Nipmuc Community,

Since 2022, Ms. Cheryll Toney Holley's 501(c)(3) nonprofit support organization has undergone significant changes. It now claims to be not only a Native American tribe but also the legitimate government of the Nipmuc Nation. In advancing this transition, Ms. Holley has relied on false claims and partial truths that have sown confusion among tribal members and external organizations alike.

She has persuaded some Nipmuc individuals to abandon their deep and honorable Band histories in favor of this newly formed movement. Others, aware of the past, have chosen to remain on the sidelines, while still others have found their names used without consent or authorization.

Those who urge us to "just get along" often overlook the damage being done. Ms. Holley and a small group of associates from her 501(c)(3) have, for personal gain, undermined the 1976 recognition of the Nipmuc Nation's tribal sovereignty. Meanwhile, outside observers stand by and laugh as we, the Nipmuc people, are deliberately weakened from within—our rightful government-to-government relationship with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts threatened for the benefit of a few seeking unauthorized privileges.

If you remain uncertain, consider the following recent developments:

1.) At the 2024 Annual Conference of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Ms. Cheryll Toney Holley applied for membership for herself and her organization. Upon review, NCAI found her claims to be false and misleading—part of a growing trend of illegitimate groups attempting to gain tribal status through

deception. Her application was denied, with full support from the entire Northeastern Tribal Leaders Group.

2.) On June 2, 2025, in a Massachusetts court case brought by Ms. Holley, she challenged the Nipmuc Nation's sovereign authority. The court found that her 501(c)(3) organization failed to provide any legal justification for its claims or actions. The Judge took steps to dismiss Ms. Holley and her fake tribal organization from court.

In summary, national and regional tribal leaders—as well as the court—have made it clear:

As one people, we must stand united in honoring the heritage of our Ancestral Bands and in defending the officially recognized authority of the Nipmuc Tribal Council. Only by doing so can we protect our Aboriginal rights. If we fail to act now, we risk losing them forever.

Taubotne,

Hassanamisco Tribe

Nipmuc Nation Tribal Council