

**PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION**

- Whereas,** This Nation, having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and
- Whereas,** The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes generally authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and
- Whereas,** Two centuries ago, the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nations provided invaluable assistance to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, most importantly, information on the lay of the land all the way to the Rocky Mountains and beyond as well as food supplies; and
- Whereas,** The contributions of our ancestors, which were instrumental to the expedition's success, have been largely overshadowed by the legend of "Sakakawea" as a Shoshone captive; and
- Whereas,** Bird Woman in Hidatsa may be roughly pronounced "Sakakawea", a spelling which has been widely accepted by the state of North Dakota; and
- Whereas,** For members of the Three Affiliated Tribes to accept the non-Indian view that Sakakawea was a Shoshone is to deny the truth of their ancestor's word; and
- Whereas,** The Hidatsa origin of Sakakawea told by Chief Bulls Eye published in the Van Hook Reporter in April 1925 is an excellent recording of our oral tradition deserving due consideration; and

Whereas, it can be verified that Smoked Lodge signed the Atkinson-O'Fallon Treaty of 1825, as cited in Chief Bulls Eye's story; and

Whereas, it can be verified that a prominent chief and medicine man named Cherry Necklace lived during this period, as cited in Chief Bulls Eye's story; and

Whereas, The families who have heard the Hidatsa Origin of Sakakawea from their parents and grandparents deserve the support and recognition of the Tribal Business Council; and

Whereas, It is the duty and responsibility of the Tribal Business Council of the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation to assert and uphold the history, culture and traditions of their membership in order to strengthen their cultural identity;

IT IS THEREFORE PROCLAIMED, That the Government of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, elected in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 2, and acting on behalf of and in the interest and welfare of all of the enrolled members of the Three Affiliated Tribes, publicly declares the oral tradition story of the Hidatsa Origin of Sakakawea told by Chief Bulls Eye the official position of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Dated this 14 day of August, 2001.



Tex G. Hall
Chairman, Tribal Business Council