

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR RESOLVES  
CAYUGA NATION LEADERSHIP DISPUTE

*Halftown Council Remains Recognized*

In a decision issued on July 14, 2017, the United States Department of Interior formally recognized the Cayuga Nation Council led by federally recognized representative Clint Halftown and alternate federal representative Tim Twoguns as the official governing body of the Cayuga Nation.

Also recognized were Nation Council Members Gary Wheeler, Mike Barringer and Donald Jimerson.

The decision comes after 10 years of a dispute between the Nation Council, led by Mr. Halftown, and a group of Cayuga Nation citizens calling themselves the "Unity Council."

"On behalf of the citizens of the Cayuga Nation, we are greatly pleased by this decision. It signifies an end to the bitter turmoil created by dissident members of our Nation. More important, it represents a new beginning where we can all work together for the betterment of our people," said Halftown.

The decision, issued by the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Michael J. Black, was based on a "Statement of Support" campaign conducted by the Halftown Council in which members of the Nation were asked to express their preference as to which group should lead the Nation.

"We believe we went about resolving this long-standing dispute the right way – by asking our Nation citizens who they recognized as their leaders. And now our citizens have spoken," added Halftown. Halftown said more than 60% of Nation citizens expressed their support for the Council he leads. He also noted that the decision is a final decision by the federal government and is not subject to any further review by the Department of Interior.

The decision was based on an appeal of a December 2016 ruling by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in favor of the Halftown Council.