


# *Sovereignty Speaks* ©


## *UN Declaration: Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

### *The Implementation Project - Workshop*

Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:  
Intertribal Workshop  
Pawnee Nation  
Pawnee, OK | Wednesday, November 10, 2021



**WALTER ECHO-HAWK - PRESIDENT OF THE PAWNEE NATION BUSINESS COUNCIL**



Walter Echo-Hawk is the President of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. He is a well-known Native American attorney, tribal judge, author, activist, and law professor. He represented Indian tribes on important legal issues, such as treaty rights, water rights, religious freedom, prisoner rights, and repatriation rights. His career spans the pivotal years when Indian tribes reclaimed their land, sovereignty, and pride in a stride toward freedom.

As a Native American rights attorney since 1972, Walter worked at the epicenter of a great social movement alongside visionary tribal leaders, visited tribes in indigenous habitats throughout North America, and was instrumental in the passage of landmark laws such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990) and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments (1994). He litigated in many of the epic struggles and has written extensively about the rise of modern Indian nations as a Native American author with firsthand experience, such as his groundbreaking book, *In the Courts of the Conqueror: The 55 Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided* (2010).

**DAWNA HARE - MEMBER OF THE PAWNEE BUSINESS COUNCIL**



Dawna Hare is a member of the Pawnee Business Council serving since May 2021. Dawna shares the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and the Land and Property Committee. She also serves as a member of the Enrollment Committee and will represent Pawnee Nation on the Council of Oklahoma Tribal Tribes. Dawna is a proud graduate of Haskell Indian Junior College (now Haskell Indian Nations University), a Bachelor degree from the University of Kansas, and a master's degree in Native American Leadership from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Dawna spent her career at the American Indian Training and Employment Program in OIC and with Pawnee Nation serving as senior manager and executive director for 24 years. In addition to serving as an elected official at Pawnee Nation, Dawna is an adjunct instructor in American Indian Studies at Oklahoma State University, co-advisor for the Native American Student Association, and works with students at the Center of Sovereign Nations at OSU.

Dawna lives in Pawnee with her husband Charles. They have three grown children: Carly Hare, Elaine Hare-Ped Clay, and Devon Hare and seven grandchildren.

In 2007, following decades of advocacy by indigenous peoples, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration, acknowledging indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination, equality, property, culture, and other human rights. The United States, along with Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, have pledged their support for the Declaration, and 148 nations worldwide now accept a set of agreed-upon norms for the just treatment of indigenous peoples.

Walter Echo-Hawk stated that the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration is "a landmark event that promises to shape humanity in the post-colonial age."  
The Pawnee Business Council hosted an informational workshop along with tribal government leaders and scholars. The center team participated by viewing the event live stream in the center.