

Open Letter to our Tribal membership from Tribal Chief Audrey Falcon

Boozhu, Tribal members!

I hope these winter months are being kind to you and your family. Unfortunately, the bitter winds of Tribal politics and untruths are once more running rampant through our community. I know many of you have received unsigned letters from people who have tried to divide our Tribe by spreading mistruths to the membership.

This kind of behavior is unacceptable to the Anishnabe people. It is unfortunate that a member of our Tribe would engage in such personal smears on Tribal members, employees and their families.

As your Chief, I want you to know that these allegations concerning enrollment and our lobbyists are absolutely false. The people making these attacks know they are false as well. What you are witnessing are the desperate political tactics by a couple of Tribal members and disgruntled former employees. You can be assured that the current Tribal Council will not demean our Tribe by acting in such a manner. Rather, we ask that you join us in praying for them.

As painful as these attacks have been, the real facts of wasteful spending by the past Council is even more painful. In our short time in office, we have uncovered millions of dollars in wasteful spending by the previous Council that threatens the fiscal prosperity of our Tribe. We have taken steps already to save our Tribe millions of dollars by replacing two lobbying firms that have charged our Tribe over \$14 million! That's right: *\$14 million of your dollars was spent for lobbyists that yielded little or no results for our Tribe.* Yet, before the new Council was sworn into office, the racino legislation, which would create a competing casino at the local Mt. Pleasant race track, had already passed the Michigan House and could very well become law in the near future. The Bay Mills Tribe and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe have legislation in Washington that would let them build casinos in Flint and Port Huron. We have hired a team of experts to help us defeat these proposals.

We released the former director of Legislative Affairs because he couldn't answer what we spent \$14 million on and due to his mismanagement of the racino issue. We are continuing to fully investigate these wasteful expenditures and others and we will report back to the membership.

Our Tribal Council is committed to bringing fiscal responsibility to our Tribe. It is important that you know that millions of our dollars have been spent by the last Council that threatens the future prosperity of our Tribe.

As your Chief and as a Tribal member, I ask that you do not believe these political smear campaigns. I am always available to answer any of your questions and I look forward to working with all our Tribal members to improve the lives of our families and keep our future bright for our children, our grandchildren and their grandchildren. Miigwetch.