



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Official Statement from the Tribal Council of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

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Since August 13, 2009 the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan has been working diligently to mitigate the inadvertent discovery of ancestral human remains from over 76,000 cubic feet of back dirt piles. The ancestral human remains were unearthed in January 2008 due to construction activity. This historic burial ground (Site #20GS136) has been classified as land that can no longer be developed by the State Historic Preservation Office.

With the cooperation of the Genesee County Land Bank and the City of Flint, the Tribe has been given full access to the site to recover and separate the ancestral human remains from old housing debris, late 19th century refuse, and modern-day garbage.

Today we are pleased to report that the ancestral recovery from Stone Street Parcel A is complete. We are here to lovingly and reverentially rebury these relatives into clean and blessed earth.

Tomorrow we must suspend the project for the winter. Next spring the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways will be tasked with resuming the coordination and oversight of this effort. The Tribal Council is grateful to the staff of the Ziibiwing Center for their unwavering commitment and hard work throughout this very sensitive process.

We are equally as grateful to the countless volunteers and Tribal Labor Pool Employees who worked at the Stone Street site.

The Tribal Council wishes to extend our deep appreciation to Dr. Beverley Smith, Frank & Nicole Raslich, Dr. Misty Jackson, and Dr. Sonya Atalay for their professional contributions and dedication to the project. We also wish to thank Dr. Mike Hambacher, Senior Archaeologist from the Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., for the use of the screens and tripods.

We are very grateful for the generosity that came from many individuals and local restaurants who donated food, water, and supplies to the project.

In the spring of 2010, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan will inform the public with a start date when the project will resume. Miigwetch to all who were involved on this project – your hard work, prayers, and commitment brought us here today. Chi Miigwetch!