

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE “STATE OF THE TRIBE”

ADDRESS

Good morning to everyone and thank you for coming to the Tribal Community meeting and the State of the Tribe Address. Today I have with me Sub Chief Diana Quigno Grundahl, Treasurer Sheila Leaux, Council Secretary Lindy Hunt, Sergeant At Arms, Milton Pelcher, Council Chaplin Keith Mandoka; Tribal Council members Louanna Bruner, Charmaine Benz, Michelle Stanley, Delmar Jackson, Julius Peters and Ron Nelson. I would like to start by sharing with you the reasons why I ran for Tribal Council this past fall. It seemed every time I talked with fellow members and the Resort staff I would continually hear that it was time for change. Many have expressed their desire for more openness and communication in the day-to-day efforts of the Tribal Council. Many had asked that if elected would I check into certain areas of our development and planned expansion. I am here to tell you today that I have been working daily with the Council and staff to do just that. The efforts of the Migizi Economic Development Company are just one of those areas of concern that the Tribal Council is

reviewing. I would ask each and every one of you to be mindful of this effort and understand that it will take some time to clearly research and study the efforts of Migizi and other areas of the Tribal Development to determine the most appropriate course of action. We would also like you to have a greater understanding of these actions and more input into the decision making process. I am not going to make light of the time table.

We are at the point where we need to grow our efforts and take the necessary steps to secure our market share for years to come if we are to remain competitive. Your Tribal Treasurer is going to be addressing you soon on where we stand financially. I would encourage everyone to pay particular attention to options we may have to address in the near future. In 2004 the Tribe took aggressive action in the passing of proposal 1 that gives the Michigan residents a voice on the expansion of gaming. Now in 2010 signatures are being collected to allow five racetrack racinos and three additional casino operations that would be decided by a newly formed bidding process. Mt Pleasant Meadows is one of the tracks that are included in the proposal. If enough signatures are collected we will see this proposal on the ballot. Rest assured that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is committed to stopping this effort and combating the misinformation that is disseminated on Tribal Gaming. Your Tribal Council is very committed to

allowing your voice on this and many issues that our community needs to address. The future of Per Capita and how to protect it, education for our youth and higher education for our entire membership, the pace of our growth in the gaming industry, development of other industry and our community's commitment to our language in the form of total submersion are some of the many issues to be addressed. I am very happy to inform you that the Tribal Council has enacted the open door policy once again making your governing body more approachable. Please keep in mind that Tribal Councils agenda is demanding and it would be best to address your concerns in a series of "Town Hall" meetings scheduled quarterly where topics can be discussed and questions asked and answered. These meeting times will be determined and communicated to you the membership in the near future.

We have with us today our Legislative partners from Washington and Lansing who will share with you issues that are of importance to our Tribal Community. You will here from Behavioral Health on the GONA initiative which has sparked healing within our community on several fronts and from our Native language Director who will brief you on matters of great importance to our community. At this time I would like to introduce Sheila Leaux you're newly elected Tribal Council Treasurer who will share the financial report with you. Thank you very much for your attention.