



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe made changes to the Title II Children's Code. The Indian Child Welfare Committee (ICWC) has worked diligently to ensure that the codes and ordinances, that represent our family services division of the Tribe, are more in line with our culture and traditional values.

"The Indian Child Welfare Act is a federal law that was enacted by Congress in 1978. This Act was passed to remedy the problem of disproportionately large numbers of Indian Children being placed out of their homes. The law recognized "that there is no resource...more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian Tribes than their children" and that there had been a failure by non-Indian agencies "to recognize the essential tribal relations of Indian people and the culture and social standards prevailing in Indian communities and families. The ICWC recognizes the importance of this Act" stated Indian Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Faith Pego-Carmona.

It is the hope of the Tribal Council and ICWC that these changes will be the model that other Native American communities use as their template for causing positive change in their communities and for their membership. The Ordinances and codes detailing these changes can be viewed on the Tribal Web-Site at www.sagchip.org.

Please contact Frank J. Cloutier, Public Relations Director, at (989) 775-4076 or at fcloutier@sagchip.org for more information on the announcement.