



ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 30, 2018

**The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan to Repatriate Ancestral Human Remains
from the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropological Archaeology**

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan – The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and its Ziibiwing Cultural Society (Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways) will repatriate the ancestral human remains of one (1) Native American individual from the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropological Archaeology (UMMAA) in Ann Arbor, Mich. on September 6, 2018.

In August of 1971, human remains representing, at minimum, one individual were removed from the Garry site (20AC19) in Arenac County, Mich. Workers contacted the Michigan State Police after encountering human remains while digging a trench for a water main on private land. Several Post-Contact Period objects were found in association with the burial but were transferred to the Arenac County Historical Society instead of the UMMAA. The human remains are of one adolescent, indeterminate sex, 17-18 years old. No known individuals were identified.

The human remains have been determined to be Native American based on burial treatment and diagnostic artifacts. A relationship of shared group identity can be reasonably traced between the Native American human remains from this site and the Chippewa based on multiple lines of evidence. The associated funerary objects noted from the site are typical of the types of goods traded in the region from approximately A.D. 1760 to 1820. Additionally, according to historical records, when the burial occurred, the Chippewa were the predominant tribe in the area. This is further evinced by a treaty creating two Chippewa reservations in the vicinity of the Garry site in 1837. The Saginaw Chippewa were the sole signatories of this treaty.

The Ziibiwing Cultural Society has been working diligently on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and in cooperation with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance, to bring home ancestors and their associated funerary objects from numerous museums (colleges/universities) and federal agencies across the country since the passage of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

NAGPRA requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections and to consult with federally-recognized Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding the return of these objects to descendants or tribes and organizations. Not subject to NAGPRA the Arenac County Historical Society will repatriate under the spirit of the NAGPRA law fifteen (15) associated funerary objects to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan on September 6, 2018.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, in cooperation with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance, Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana; Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (Six component reservations: Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band; Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band); and Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Wisconsin consulted and requested from the UMMAA the repatriation of the culturally affiliated ancestral human remains under NAGPRA from the Garry site of Arenac County, Mich. The Notice of Inventory Completion posted to the Federal Register on July 12, 2018.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan invites the interested public to join us for the *Recommitment to the Earth Ceremony* for the ancestor and 15 associated funerary objects to be held on Thursday, September 6 at 3pm in the Tribe's Nibokaan Ancestral Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1995 for the explicit purpose of reburying repatriated Native American ancestral human remains and associated funerary objects. The Nibokaan Cemetery is located on the Saginaw Chippewa's Isabella Indian Reservation, behind the Tribal Campground located at 7525 East Tomah Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Mich. A *Journey Feast* to conclude the ancestral ceremonies and protocols will be held at 4pm on Thursday, September 6 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways located at 6650 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeway's in Mount Pleasant, Mich. is the Midwest's Premier American Indian Museum. Established in 2004, the Ziibiwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified and culturally relevant educational experience through its award-winning Diba Jimooyung (Telling Our Story) permanent exhibit, changing exhibits, research center, Ojibwe language immersion room, gift shop, and meeting rooms. The Ziibiwing Center is a non-profit cultural center and museum belonging to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

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