

The New Sault Tribe Constitution Will Empower Our People



Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson
“Proudly Representing
All Members Everywhere”

I am dedicating this issue to our future in respect and to honor of our past leaders like Fred L. Hatch, Mary Murray, and many others who adopted a Constitution in 1975 because we had to in order to become recognized. They fully intended future generations to fix this inappropriate ‘corporate charter’ document when the opportunity presented itself. Well folks, guess what, that day is today!

The new Constitution is not perfect but it is a giant leap forward and a significant improvement over what we have today which is an all powerful single branch of government. Regardless of who is in office, the potential currently exists for a government that answers to no one and ignores the people. The new Constitution moves us forward like most other tribes in the nation who have separated governmental powers and become real governments.

Currently, you have no guaranteed rights! The new Constitution guarantees these rights are not left to the benevolence of any seated Chair or Board of Directors. **I ask myself, if not now, when?**

RIGHTS RESERVED TO YOU ‘THE PEOPLE’

Many do not fully understand the authority your Tribal government has over you. This is one instance where ignorance is not bliss as laws can be enacted to affect your life as Members including

your continued membership. In the new Constitution, your rights are derived from you the people and your sovereignty protected. *Article I ~ Sovereignty*, reads:

Sec. 1. Source of Sovereignty. The people shall be the source of all governing authority and power vested in the Tribe by this Constitution.

Sec. 3. Delegation of Sovereignty. The government shall exercise only the authority and powers granted by the people in the Constitution.

Sec. 4. Reserved Powers. Powers not granted to the government shall be reserved to the People.

BILL OF RIGHTS

These DO NOT exist in any substantive form in our current Constitution. A snapshot of these rights includes:

Article II. Bill of Rights. Free Speech; Right to Petition Government for Redress of Grievances; Protection against Illegal Search and Seizure or Arrest without Probable Cause; Protection Against Excessive Bail and Fines; Real Employment Due Process in-

cluding Protection against Employment Retribution; Enforceable Indian Preference in Hiring, etc. Though various protection do exist in Tribal law, they are not guaranteed rights; in the new Constitution, they will be.

SEPARATION OF POWERS

You currently have one branch of government. The origins of the concept of a separation of powers can be found in the writings of founding father, Benjamin Franklin who patterned these after the *Iroquois Great Law of Peace*. Thus, this concept is steeped in our own beliefs. I am proud that our American form of democracy and that which has liberated nations around the globe was patterned after our Indian way. Isn’t it time that our own people benefit from the wisdom of this insight?

Article V. Sec. 1. Branches of Government. There shall be one Legislative branch, one Executive Branch, and one Judicial Branch. There shall be a system of separa-

tion of powers and checks and balances between branches of government. No branch of government or official of any branch of government shall exercise any power granted in this Constitution or properly delegated by law to any other branch of government except as expressly directed or permitted by this Constitution and each branch shall act as a check and balance upon the actions of the other branches as permitted by this Constitution.

At the time I write this report, it is the day before the Board will act [or not] to move forward. I will provide updates on our progress.

Chi Miigwitch, Negee,

Aaron

MY CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Facebook: ‘Aaron Payment’
Also, check out the ‘Sault Tribe Guide’ on Facebook.

WIN \$1,000 CASH!

Just send me an email and have your name placed in a drawing to win \$1,000 Cash! The deadline has been extended to November 15th.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE APPOINTED 2005; FINAL DRAFT SUBMITTED 2007;
IT’S NOW 2012! IF NOT NOW, WHEN?!!

Chairperson Payment Meets with Tribal Members

As promised, I am reinstating Tribal Chair meetings with the Members in a location near you. For the most part, throughout the service area, I will join existing meetings. Additional meetings have be reinstated in lower Michigan with a plan to expand to additional locations. Please come to have your say and to receive Tribal Updates. ~ Aaron

Date	Location	Time	Event	Building	Address
Monday, October 1st	Munising	5pm	Elder Committee	Munising Tribal Center	622 W. Superior St.
Tuesday, October 2nd	Mackinac Island	5pm	Regular Meeting	City Building - Council Meetings	1 Market St.
Wednesday, October 3rd	Sault Ste. Marie	12pm	Elder Committee	Nokomis/Mishomis Center	2076 Shunk Rd.
Thursday, October 4th	Marquette	6pm	Elder Committee	Holiday Inn	1951 U.S. 41
Friday, October 5th	Cheboygan	4pm	Community Meeting	Inverness Township Hall	734 W. VFW Rd.
Saturday, October 6th	Detroit	10am	Community Meeting	American Indian Health and Family Serivces Building	4880 Lawndale
Saturday, October 6th	Detroit	12pm	Community Meeting	American Indian Health and Family Serivces	4880 Lawndale
Saturday, October 6th	Okemos	4pm	Community Meeting	Nokomis Learning Center	5151 Marsh Rd.
Sunday, October 7th	Grand Rapids	1pm	Community Meeting	Ramada Plaza	3333 28th St. S.E.
Wednesday, October 10th	Manistique	12pm	Elder Committee	Manistique Tribal Center	5698 U.S. 2
Friday, October 12th	St. Ignace	12pm	Elder Committee	McCann School	399 McCann St.
Monday, October 15th	Hessel	12pm	Elder Committee	Hessel Tribal Center	3535 Nopaming
Monday, October 15th	Munising	4pm	Elder Committee	Munising Tribal Center	622 W. Superior
Tuesday, October 16th	St. Ignace	All day	Regular Meeting	McCann School	399 McCann St.
Thursday, October 18th	Escanaba	5:30pm	Elder Committee	Willow Creek Professional Building	3500 Ludington St.
Friday, October 19th	Newberry	11am	Elder Committee	Zellars Village Inn	7552 M -123
Monday, October 22nd	Newberry	12:30pm	Elder Advisory	Newberry Tribal Center	4935 Zeez-ba-tik Ln.
Wednesday, October 31st	Naubinway	6:30pm	Elder Committee	Naubinway Pavilion	2 blocks S. of Blinking light on US2



For more information, please call Ashley at 906-635-6050 or toll free at 1-800-793-0660
Changes to this Schedule Will be Posted to the Tribal Website at www.saulttribe.com

