

# Morrow says board lacks leadership and values



**DARCY MORROW,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is a busy time of year for everyone, we have been working on the children's Christmas parties and the elders have been enjoying their Christmas dinners. Please take some time out of your busy schedule to check in on an elder or elders in your community and enjoy a visit with them.

The board has been working on budgets these last few months and it has been a drawn out process because some do not like to go line by line to see what is in

each budget. This is an important process and the board is fiscally responsible to the membership. An example, the Sault's Big Bear budget, which is over 90 percent tribal support dollars, includes the purchase of a \$100,000 Zamboni and only a few of us have an issue with this purchase, that is not being fiscally responsible to our members.

Another idea from a board member was to look at only utilizing one ice rink in Big Bear which could save over \$150,000-plus on the budget. This is just two items in one budget that could save over \$250,000 tribal support dollars off the bottom line. One example to reallocate this \$250,000 tribal support could be to put back the elder recreation funding that was eliminated in 2008. Unfortunately, we have board members who support this waste of tribal dollars and are not looking out for the membership as a whole. This is one example of tribal dollars being wasted when it should be reallocated to membership services. So when you hear board members complaining of how the process is going, ask them how they are going to vote on spending \$100,000 on a Zamboni and

keeping the second ice rink open at Big Bear. Especially when we have elders and membership with needs!

Somehow along the line we have lost our value system that set us apart from the rest of the world. At our board table, the game of who is most important rules and it is quite embarrassing! We lack leadership; leaders are supposed to work for a better quality of life for our members.

An example is the game being played right now with our fishermen who have had their waters closed down to them on Oct. 23 due to a CORA vote that Dennis McKelvie, board member and The chairman of the Great Lakes committee voted YES to shut the waters down to our fishermen. We have had a few vocal fishermen present items such as invasive species, slime, the state of Michigan planting three times the amount of trout but our catch allotment hasn't gone up. This has been presented time and time again to the board but no one wants to listen until it's too late! We should be fighting for our fishermen, these men and women continue to put their lives on the line every day they are on the Great Lakes!

The meeting held in Sault

Ste. Marie on Dec. 1 was such a shame, games being played with the livelihoods of our fishermen and their families! A resolution was done up by Director Chase and myself immediately the day CORA shut down MM I, II and III, to access the fishermen fund (this fund can only be used for the fishermen). It allowed \$200,000 to be split between the fishermen who had their waters shut down. The resolution was passed in November at the St. Ignace board meeting and the staff were directed to come up with different options for the board to pass on how to break the \$200,000 so everyone receives something.

The board workshopped the options before the meeting and came up with this as the final option that was in front of us on the Dec. 1 meeting for a vote. 1) Anyone affected by the closure fishing under 10 days during the 2015 season would receive \$500. 2) Over 10 days on the water during 2015 season receive full equal payment. 3) Pay captains (unless they have a co-captain who is the one actively conducting the on the water operation) and pay the helpers. 4) Pay minors via parents. 5) Pay only operations having documented effort in

MM I, II and III in 2015 season. The majority of the board workshopped this item, but directors Causley and Hollowell decided to not stay in the room and were out in the hallway because they were mad. This doesn't give Unit II much support at the table when both your reps do not stay and participate. This should have been an easy vote, but politics always plays out and our fishermen and their families have been effected negatively! Directors Chase, Glyptis, Massaway, McLeod and I were the five yes votes both times this was on the table. I am disgusted on how the fishermen and their families have become the political pawns! If board members want to play politics and garner votes then they can work on their own resolution, not try and add onto one that had been workshopped all day! It was Unit II board reps that decided to stay outside the room during discussion. I want to apologize to the fishermen and their families, this should have been done Dec. 1. You should not be begging this board they should have done the right thing and voted YES!

Thank you,  
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