

SUCCESSSES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL!

Health Division Delivers Millions of \$ in New Funds



Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and Chairperson Payment in Lansing

of acres of land that allowed Michigan to become a state just a year later. In doing so, we secured the benefits of "health, education, and social welfare" benefits for "as long as the rivers flow, grass grows, and wind blows." **We are not begging**, we have "paid in full" for these benefits. We travel to DC to remind Congress of their federal trust obligation here. No matter how successful our gaming or economic enterprises become, I intend to continue to hold the US Government accountable to fulfill this "Trust Obligation." Ignorant and assimilated people simply do not understand this but I am proud of the work we do here.

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

Ahneen, Booze, Negee:

As you know, in 2012, the members voted to expand our gaming to additional venues outside of the UP. If we are ever to expand services to better meet members' needs and expand our Elder dividend back to an amount (or more) when I was chair the last time, we have to secure new sources of revenues. Our petition to the U.S. Department of Interior has been submitted. We anticipated an adverse opinion at the regional solicitor's office, but the issue will instead be reviewed by the national solicitor and decision made by the Assistant Secretary of Interior.

At this point, we could use support rather than the negativity of some board members. I was not 100 percent in support of gaming expansion until the members voted for it via tribal referendum. Since returning to office, I have pushed to make the proposal worthwhile. Now, it is up to us, as a Tribe, to present a unified and professional front rather than a unstable picture of board discord. To be honest, I don't bother to look at the nonsense others write but the unprofessional depiction is threatening our entire future. That is not leadership, it is dysfunction.

TRIBAL UNITY: LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

While Director Sorenson has characterized our efforts at our nation's capitol as "begging," I have a very different view. In the 1836 Treaty of Washington, we ceded millions

HEALTH TEAM OUTSTANDING!

I am so proud of our health team as lead by our outstanding Tribal Health Director Bonnie Culfa. In this edition of our paper is a write up of new funding in the amount of over \$1.2 million a year to address issues of obesity, diabetes, heart disease though the promotion of exercise, good nutrition, and tobacco free living. Information and opportunities that promote wellness are important to extend our lives.

I want to acknowledge that since joining our Heath Team in 2005, Bonnie Culfa (a Sault Tribe member from St. Ignace) has increased our IHS funding by millions and specifically met my challenge to her to increase third party insurance revenues from \$1.5 million in 2005 to nearly \$8 million today! When we restructured, gained accreditation, and adopted a medical model for behavioral health, we were able to raise third party revenues. I foresee that within a few years, we will exceed \$10 million in collectibles. With a IHS budget of over \$18 million and third party revenues of \$8 million, our health division has proven itself to be self sufficient at an overall budget of \$26 million. No other single source of revenues in the Tribe right now (not even the casino) contribute this amount to services. Thank you to our Health Division Team for such great work!

MY BROTHERS' KEEPER

I am pleased to announce that I have convened a planning session to discuss our Tribe becoming a participating tribe in the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, which was established by President Obama to align existing services and opportunities for young men of color who represent a disproportionate number of juveniles who find themselves adjudicated or incarcerated. I recognize myself as a person of color. I think back to the many points where my live could have ended up very differently. Given environmental factors, I am amazed I did not end up with a juvenile criminal record. I of



ten acknowledge the saying, "There for the grace of God go I." I think my faith and the interventions of good people and opportunities like those represented through our JTPA Program, Upward Bound and a college student (Norma Dean) who interned with our substance abuse program at the Shedawin building made the difference for me.

MBK is an alignment of resources and a re-dedication and renewed commitment to our youth. While it is framed as "my brothers" keeper to focus on the worst of the worst statistics young men of color face, the expected benefits for our young girls will be equally evident. I will provide updates as this project proceeds.

MACKINAC OIL SPILL IMMINENT

Please watch the simulation in the attached link of what WILL HAPPEN when the Enbridge Pipe breaks under the Mackinac Bridge. I did an interview with a CBS affiliated on Tuesday and I spoke at a press conference in Lansing recently. The Enbridge Pipe line is 5 miles long and has a pipe that ranges from 20 inches to 30 inches in diameter. For every mile, there is 200,000 gallons of oil. Thus, for the length of the bridge, there is approximately 1 to 1.5 million gallons of oil. While Enbridge installed a valve to shut off additional oil in case of a spill, a million gallons will nonetheless spill into Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

What is at stake is our fisheries and water quality in the Great Lakes which represents 20 percent of the Earth's fresh water supply. Our white-fish population has already declined from 1 million 10 years

ago to about 450,000 today due to sea lamprey, quagga mussels, and declines in zooplankton. This additional impact to the ecology will most likely decimate our fisheries. It will also destroy the sports fisheries including the walleye population.

I worked in the Battle Creek area when the Enbridge spill happened in the Kalamazoo River in 2010. Over 300 homes had to be evacuated due to the toxicity in the air. The expected clean up to return the water quality to the pre-spill ecology is over 100 years. While original estimates were a \$5 million clean up, the total costs have exceeded \$1 billion. The million gallon spill at the Kalamazoo River was somewhat contained. Containment in the Great Lakes, however, is nearly impossible and will likely be a cost of multiples of the Kalamazoo spill given the different inlets and tributaries it would affect.

Take a stand! Get involved. Let's protect the lifeblood of our Mother Earth!

<http://ecowatch.com/.../pipeline-rupture-beneath-great-lakes.../>

For tribal members who live in Michigan, please remember to vote on Nov. 4. I am going to spare you who I plan to vote for (email me if you really want to know) but I urge you to exercise your right. Natives are hunters but we only "take what we need and leave the rest." We don't eat our brother *Maengun* (wolf) so I urge you to...

PLEASE VOTE NO!

ON BOTH MICHIGAN WOLF HUNT REFERENDA

National Congress of American Indians-National Indian Health Board Tribal Unity Days in DC: R to L, Senator Jon Tester (D-Montana), Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee; Mary Pavel, Legislative Chief of Staff for Senate Indian Affairs Committee; Congressman Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma); Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska); Dr. Yvette Robideaux, Interim Director for Indian Health Service; retiring Senator Tim Johnson (D-South Dakota), each providing updates and demonstrating support for Indian County though their actions.



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WATCH SAULT TRIBE BOARD MEETINGS ON LIVESTREAM: <http://new.livestream.com/TOSSABCS2>