

# Deficit spending budget PASSED!



**DENNIS MCKELVIE, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT I**

I am disappointed to report that the board of directors passed a budget that is spending \$3 million more than we will take in for

2013. I do believe that we will cut it down to meet what we will take in but this is a backward way to operate, in my opinion. The budgets should have been cut before passing.

Now, we will see if the board of directors will lead by example and not put it on the team members' backs. Each department has areas in which they can save. The board of directors can lead the way with cuts to our own budget such as unnecessary travel (we don't need three or four attending the same conference), iPads and laptops, parking passes, etc. If we want these things, we should buy them ourselves.

Retirement for a 20-year board member is now over \$1,400 per month. In the next 20 years that pay will be over \$2,000 per

month! Some board members will receive this along with Social Security and any 401K benefits from previous employment (both of which are earned individually). But for some time in the past, board members were getting matched 401K payments from the tribe on their board pay. This was wrong! This practice was stopped in 2004 but there are still seated member(s) who will benefit in this way. Board retirement must stop.

We need to start looking at the 2014 budget now and, hopefully, we will pass a budget that creates a savings and builds that savings for a rainy day. If we continue spending everything that we make, we will never get ahead to improve or expand our tribal programs.