

Kicking the can in the perfect storm



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UNIT I**

Do we kick the can down the road or do we get us on a path of financial security? We have a choice to be leaders or politicians. A true leader will face the problem and deal with it. A politician will try to please everyone and never fix the problem. A

leader will do what has to be done, while a politician will try to do what is politically popular. Leaders lead by example, while politicians do what it takes to get votes. In my opinion, it is time for us to be leaders. No person or department is more important than any other. We are a tribe first and we should be a team that works together. We will get nowhere as we are, divided and separate.

As most of you know, we are facing a \$1.7 million shortfall from the federal government sequestration cuts. In addition to this we must spend \$1.3 million on an update for our computer systems servers and the possibility of having to upgrade our computers at an estimated cost of \$500,000. While we are trying to figure out what to do with sequestration and the technology issues we are also dealing with the gas tank project at Midjim cost increase and the sale of the

Lakefront falling thru.

The casinos and enterprise profits are down, with costs rising. Four out of five of our casinos have increased income in the last year but with one casino down it brings our overall total down.

This is the “perfect storm” for our tribal finances. We are now faced with decisions that affect all of us and decisions must be made to try and keep what we have and prepare for next year.

I believe that next year will be worse and we should be using this time to prepare for it so we are not reactive but proactive. If I had all of the answers, I would be doing them. I do have faith that the chairperson and board of directors can and will deal with this problem and move forward.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (906) 203-6698 or dmckelvie@saultribe.net.