

# Tribe not Carcieri conflicted



**KEITH MASSAWAY, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT III**

First of all I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. It is a time for family and friends, with giving at its heart, a beautiful time of year. I hope these holiday seasons find you safe and warm.

The board of directors recently

found out that the federal government has determined that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe is not Carcieri conflicted. Carcieri vs Salazar was a U.S. Supreme Court case that rendered a decision by the court that any tribe that was not actively under federal care in 1934 could not put any land into trust. We have been fighting that decision for years.

The federal government, up until this fall, has maintained that we were conflicted and would not process any of our trust applications. The tribe has 14 applications on file at this time. Our oldest application is from the year 1994 and the newest is from this year. The board is now reviewing all the applications to see if we still want to proceed with the trust applications because it has been so long that they may not be needed as first intended.

A huge thank you goes out to

Professor Cleland for writing an in depth report on our history as a tribe and that we were indeed under federal government control in 1934. I have read this report many times and it is the main reason that they changed their mind and are now allowing our tribe to take land into trust again. We hope to be able to have this report available to our members in the near future so if you want, you can read how our tribe grew through its many challenges over a 100 years to get to the point we are now.

Once again, I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you for all the merry greetings, the calls and emails.

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