

Tribal Chair Aaron Payment appointed to national committee



Aaron Payment, Sault Tribe chairperson, has been appointed to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius's Tribal Advisory Committee. He was nominated to one of five national At Large Representative seats.

According to Sebelius, the Tribal Advisory Committee's primary purpose is to seek consensus, exchange views, share information, provide advice and recommendations. The committee facilitates any other interaction related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of HHS programs and accomplishes its goals through meetings, conversations, and forums with federal officials.

"The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee signals a new level of attention to government-to-government relationship between HHS and Indian tribal governments. I am honored a cabinet level government official has selected me for this service to our country overall and Indian country specifically," said Payment, adding that HHS is over both Indian Health Service and tribal Head Start programs, along with Centers for Disease Control and various other funding sources from which the tribe benefits.

"I want to thank Cathy Abramson for making the nomination. I think as the chair of the National Indian Health Board, her nomination had significant weight," Payment said. Sault Tribe Unit 1 Director Cathy Abramson serves as the committee's Bemidji Area representative along with tribal leaders from 11 other areas across the nation.

Payment will accept his seat at the next Tribal Advisory Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 5.