

Sault Tribe declares state of emergency

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors and Gaming Authority each declared a state of emergency at special meetings March 17, due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The state of emergency is declared throughout all reservation lands across the seven-county service area.

Under the Board of Director's resolution, the tribe's Executive Director, casino CEO and EDC Director are authorized to modify policies and procedures, order closures, cancel events, implement programs and other steps necessary to protect the public. The tribe's casino administration, tribal government, health division and law enforcement will coordinate to maximize efforts to resist the spread of COVID-19.

Kewadin Casinos announced March 17 it is temporarily closing all five Kewadin Casinos March 18-22 with an opening scheduled for April 6. (See saulttribe.com for details.)

Some Sault Tribe government buildings will be closed to the public. Offices closing to the public will begin on a tiered schedule March 19 through March 23, with plans to re-open April 6. Staff will be working at their job sites or remotely from home, depending on their duties.

Information for tribal members on how to make appointments for specific emergency or membership services will be posted on the tribe's website saulttribe.com, shared with its official Facebook and at each tribal site throughout the service area. A separate list of tribal programs accepting appointment only visits will be posted. Please watch saulttribe.com for further information and updates.

The state of emergency will stay in place until the situation no longer requires it. "The tribe's state of emergency will end when emergency conditions no longer exist and we have programs in place to recover from its effects," tribal Executive Director Christine McPherson said.

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RESOLUTION NO: 2020-72

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan City, China. Person-to-person spread of the virus has occurred in the United States, with some of those occurring in people with no travel history and no known source of exposure. On January 31, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency and on March 11, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Directors has determined that a state of emergency exists on the Tribal reservation as well, and this Board of Director wishes to take all steps necessary to stem the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a state of emergency is declared throughout the reservation lands of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the administration of the Casinos, the Tribal Government, the Health Division and the Law Enforcement Department, must coordinate and maximize all Tribal efforts that may be activated to resist the spread and injuries caused by the spread of COVID-19.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during the state of emergency, the Executive Director of the Tribe, the Interim CEO of the Casinos, the Executive Director of EDC, shall have such authority as they deem necessary, to temporarily modify policies or procedures, order closures, cancel or schedule events, implement programs, and take all other appropriate steps, that they deem essential to the protection of the public.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state of emergency shall be terminated when emergency conditions no longer exist and appropriate programs have been implemented to recover from any effects of the emergency conditions, as determined by the Executive Director of the Tribe, and the termination of this State of Emergency shall be reported to this Board of Directors at the next meeting following termination, for review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director shall make daily updates to the Board of Directors.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 12 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 17 day of March 2020; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 11 members for, 0 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.


Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians


Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
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