

# Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2022 Annual Report



## Mshkiikenh

Turtle

The Turtle Clan (Mikinaak or Mshkiikenh Dodem) is part of the Fish Clan (Giigoonh Dodem). The Turtle reminds us to be truthful in all we do and how we live our lives. There is strong medicine among the Turtle Clan because of their connection with the earth, water and stars. The Turtle clan is responsible for mediation, justice, making laws and helping with decisions if there are disagreements between the clans.

## the Seven Grandfathers Teachings

Debwewin—	Truth	—Be faithful to reality
Gwekwaadziwin—	Honesty	—Tell the truth
Aakdewin—	Bravery	—Choose with courage
Nbwaakaawin—	Wisdom	—Use good judgment
Minadendmowin—	Respect	—Act without harm
Zaagidwin—	Love	—Practice absolute kindness
Dbaadendizwin—	Humility	—Treat all life equally



## Win Awenen Nisitotung Special Section

### Inside ...

2022 Executive Overview .....	2	Natural Resources - Wildlife .....	9	ACFS 2.....	15
Board of Directors .....	3	Language and Culture .....	10	Housing Authority 1.....	16
Financials 1.....	4	Elder Services.....	10	Housing Authority 2.....	16
Financials 2.....	5	Facilities.....	11	Team Member Activities.....	17
Tribal Court .....	6	Health 1.....	12	Education .....	18
Law Enforcement.....	7	Health 2.....	13	Recreation.....	19
Natural Resources - Fisheries .....	8	ACFS 1.....	14	EDC.....	20



# Sault Tribe Membership Services 2022 Highlights

## Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS)

ACFS expanded its main office to include a visitation center offering families who have children removed from their care with a home like experience. The center has a kitchen for families to cook meals, a living room and playground.

Project planning was assigned to ACFS for the Lodge of Hope. During the planning stage, ACFS worked closely with Bieux/Simone Consulting, which provided technical assistance.

Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) received funding to provide additional Sexual Violence Services (SVS) to their service delivery. Victims or survivors



Family visitation center

impacted by sexual assault have access to free, confidential, and voluntary services including victim advocacy, crisis support, education, culture, tradition, and healing in any way they choose. ARC hopes to have its SANE medical room fully functioning in the near future to provide victims of sexual assault with medical examinations.

SVS Program implemented



Survivors pose in front of a quilt made by survivors.

a Cultural Healing component that provides access to learning about the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe ways of life. In addition to providing medicine kits for survivors that include the four sacred medicines, the program offers information and education on how to use them in the Anishinaabe way.

## Education

In 2022, Sault Tribe Early Childhood Programs served a total of 127 children, including 81 preschoolers from 77 families



A day at the child care center



Executive Director  
Christine McPherson

and 46 infants and toddlers from 41 families. The Child Care Center provided full-day, full-year services for 48 children and 43 families.

During 2022, Youth Education & Activities (YEA) provided services to 12,644 students throughout the seven YEA sites, which include Sault Ste. Marie, Rudyard, Hessel/Cedarville, St. Ignace, Manistique, Escanaba and Munising.

In 2022, the Sault Tribe Higher Education Program provided financial and technological support to Sault Tribe members completing post-secondary education, awarding 23 scholarships, 116 need-based grants and 336 self-sufficiency incentive awards.

In 2022, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provided employment and training services to 116 participants in the following areas: On-the-Job Training, Work Experience, Summer Youth Employment, Classroom Training, and Elder Employment.

## Elder Services

In 2022, Elder Services made 74,050 total contact with tribal elders related to meals, home-care, transportation and outreach.

Elder Services provided over 49,000 meals to our tribal elders in the form of congregate meals, home-delivered meals and frozen meals. In addition, they provided 459 transports to medical



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes presents Eddie Synnett, the oldest elder attending the Christmas luncheon, with a Pendleton blanket.

appointments, 1,012 medication deliveries, 2,546 homemaker services and provided 10 ramps or rails to 10 elders.

Indoor dining for Elders re-opened in April-May for Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel and Manistique meal sites. Munising also began serving its meeting meals indoor at the Munising Health Center Community Room. In addition, the Elder Subcommittees held

their first meetings since the COVID Pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Elder Services received supplemental funding for continued planning and expansion of the Manistique Elder Home Delivered Meal Program. After planning and assessing elders, the program started expanding the Home Delivered and delivering meals to homebound elders.

Multiple Elder Holiday Parties were held throughout the service area in November and December. Parties were held in Sault Ste. Marie for Unit I, II and III, in Manistique and Escanaba for Unit IV and in Munising and Marquette for Unit V.

## Language & Culture

The Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building had a busy year holding over 160 events, including funerals, cultural events, family gatherings and a variety of miscellaneous tribal events.

The Baaweting Summer Gathering Powwow returned to Sault Ste. Marie in July with approximately 1,500 participants and spectators.

Language & Culture Division relocated to Big Bear Arena, with an open house in October highlighting the division's programs and services.



A wild rice display at the Language and Culture Open House.

Snow Snake Games were introduced to the community for the first time with workshops held in advance giving participants a chance to make their own snow snake to keep and compete with. A Snow Snake competition was held in Sault Ste. Marie on Feb. 8 with nearly 100 attendees.

## Recreation

In conjunction with Kewadin Casino, the facility hosted the Abby Roque LLC Hockey School on May 13-15, 2022. This hockey school was the USA Olympian's first visit to her hometown after the Olympics. The hockey school had 50 participants and over 200 spectators. The Kewadin Casino hosted a reception in the Dream Makers Theater. Abby Roque's homecoming visit was coordinated with the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Tribe played an integral part of the events and activities.

The facility hosted 173 birthday parties and celebrations as well as 13 school fun days.

Established a new video arcade vendor, Enterprise Vending Inc. The upgraded location in the lobby provides patrons with new redemption

and video games as well as new paint and lighting to highlight the machines and provide an energetic atmosphere.

To supplement tribal facilities and programming, the Sault Tribe has established recreation agreements in the following areas at minimal or no charge to tribal members: Escanaba-YMCA and Sullivan's Health and Fitness, Kinross / Kincheloe-Recreation Fitness Center, Manistique-Yooper Fitness, High School Pool and Little Bear West Ice Arena,



YEA participants growing vegetables during the summer program.

Marquette-Northern Michigan University (NMU), Munising-Alger Parks & Recreation Center, Negaunee-YMCA of Marquette County, Newberry & Curtis-Helen Newberry Joy Hospital & Healthcare Center, Sault Ste. Marie-Lake Superior State University (LSSU) and St. Ignace-Little Bear East Arena.

## Repatriation & Historic Preservation

Digitized elder and historical videos, completing close to 300 by the end of the year.

Repatriation of 42 ancestors from Michigan State University. Relocation of the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library to Big Bear Arena and expanded hours.

Consulted on an exhibition about repatriation that opened at The Field Museum (Chicago, Ill.). The exhibit tells the story of the tribe's efforts and success at repatriation from The Field Museum. The exhibit educates visitors about how Indigenous ancestors became part of their collection and why repatriation is important.

## Youth Development Fund

The Youth Development Fund provides funds to Sault Tribe Youth living in the seven-county service area for activities based on the tribal strategic direction of the medicine wheel including academic/intellectual, physical, emotion and cultural/spiritual. In 2022, the fund provided \$30,694 to 256 tribal youth.

## Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic

The 21st Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic was held on Sept. 23 and raised \$74,117.50 in sponsorships. Since the inception in 2001, the Classic has raised over \$1 million for the education fund and has distributed over 370 scholarships to Sault Tribe students furthering their education.

Resolution #2022-255 was passed, increasing the Pamela Cable Gerson Memorial



2022 Mixed Doubles winners.

Scholarship from \$150 annually to \$1,000 annually, along with approving the scholarship continue to be funded into the future through the Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic fund.

Resolution #2022-256 was passed to continue funding the George K. Nolan Scholarship through the Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic fund in the amount of \$1,000 annually.

## Children's Christmas Parties

Sault Tribe received \$73,648.26 in donations for the 2022 Children's Christmas parties and hosted parties in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel, Newberry, Manistique, Escanaba and Wetmore, providing gifts to over 2,500 participants.



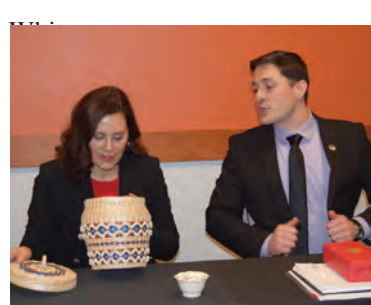
Sault Tribe Law Enforcement holding a Santa celebration.

## State-Tribal Summit Meetings

The Sault Tribe hosted the 12 federally recognized tribes within Michigan for the Tribal-State Summit Liaison Meetings held with various department heads from the state of Michigan, along the State-Tribal Summit meeting with Governor



Flags representing Michigan Indian tribes, the state of Michigan and the USA.



Chairman Austin Lowes presents Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer with a black ash basket at the tribal-state summit.



# Tribe's governing body: Board of Directors



**AUSTIN LOWES,**  
CHAIRMAN



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III



**KIMBERELY LEE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II



**DARCY MORROW**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV



**KIMBERLEY HAMPTON, SECRETARY**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV



**TYLER LAPLAUNT, VICE CHAIR**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V



**ROBERT MCRORIE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I



**SHAWN BOROWICZ**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE, TREASURER**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I



**BETTY FREIHEIT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

DIRECTOR, UNIT 1  
VACANT

## Governing Body: The Board

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors is the governing body of the tribe. There are 12 board members and one chairperson, elected to four-year terms. The board members represent the five units of the tribe's service area in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Five board members represent Unit I, two board members represent Unit

II, two board members represent Unit III, two board members represent Unit IV, and one board member represents Unit V. The chairperson is elected at large. Regular meetings are held twice a month, usually on Tuesdays. See [www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors](http://www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors) for meeting schedule, meeting links, board votes and minutes, reports and more.

## Tribal Board Contacts

Austin Lowes  
1405 Bingham Ave.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 203-2545  
alowes@saulttribe.net

Kimberly Lee  
3078 W. Nopaming Street  
Hessel, MI 49745  
(906) 379-8965  
klee@saulttribe.net

Michael McKerchie, Unit I  
410 Dawson St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 322-7768  
mmckerchie@saulttribe.net

Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III  
2334 Shore Dr.  
St. Ignace, MI 49781  
(906) 430-0536  
bsorenson@saulttribe.net

Isaac McKechnie  
1938 E. 9th Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 203-4787  
imckechnie@saulttribe.net

Shawn Borowicz  
2986 Mackinaw Trail  
St. Ignace, MI 49781  
(906) 379-8511  
sborowicz@saulttribe.net

Robert McRorie  
1600 Marquette Ave.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 379-8068  
rmcorie@saulttribe.net

Kimberly Hampton  
1116 N County Road 440  
Manistique, MI 49854  
(906) 440-8138  
khampton@saulttribe.net

Betty Freiheit  
820 W. 28th Ave. Apt A-1  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906-379-8745  
bfreiheit@saulttribe.net

Darcy Morrow, Unit IV  
102 South 5th St.  
Manistique, MI 49854  
(906) 298-1888  
dmorrow@saulttribe.net

Lana Causley-Smith, Unit II  
PO Box 531  
Hessel, MI 49745  
(906) 322-3818  
lcausley@saulttribe.net

Tyler LaPlaut  
3001 Island Reach Road  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 440-8294  
tlaplaut@saulttribe.net

## Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seven-county service area

The tribe's seven-county service area consists of the seven easternmost counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula: Marquette, Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac and Chippewa.



Main offices are in Sault Ste. Marie and satellite offices with administration and health services are in Hessel, St. Ignace, Gladstone, Escanaba, Newberry, Marquette and Munising.



# Overview of the Sault Tribe's finances for 2022

This section of the tribe's annual report presents a discussion and analysis of the tribe's financial performance during the fiscal year that ended on Dec. 31, 2022. Please read it in conjunction with the tribe's financial statements, which follow this section.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The tribe's total governmental assets increased by \$22.9 million or 6.53% over the course of this year's operations and total assets from business-type activities increased by \$17.4 million or 14.4%. Total primary governmental assets were \$512 million at 2022 year-end, an increase of \$40.3 million or 8.54%.

— Total liabilities in governmental activities decreased by \$12.3 million or (4.63%). Total liabilities in business-type activities increased to \$54.6 million or 121%. Total primary governmental liabilities were \$307 million at 2022 year-end.

— During the year, the tribe's governmental expenses and transfers were \$35.1 million less than the revenues generated by grants, taxes and other sources for governmental activities.

— In the tribe's business-type activities, total revenues were \$94.9 million while total expenses, taxes, gain on disposal of capital assets, and transfers were \$107.4 million.

— The General Fund reported a decrease in expenditures of \$7.86 million or 35.9% for the year due to decreases in General Government expenses funded with ARP Act of 2022 COVID-19 grants.

— The tribe's MERS Defined Benefit Pension Plan for law enforcement employees reported a net pension liability of \$176,788 in the government-wide financial statements.

— Tribal external debt reduction payments amounted to \$12,065,693.

Major capital projects included:

— Completed work on a new building for the Child Advocacy Center. This is a joint project using Department of Justice funds and funds from the Tribal Building and Equipment Fund. The total cost of the project was \$3,810,600 and operations began in June 2022.

— The Tribal Building fund purchased land, buildings, equipment, vehicles and made building improvements totaling \$2,884,080 which includes, as noted in the ARPA section, the purchase of a residential facility for displaced persons which will begin operations in June 2023.

— The Tribal Real Estate Department purchased land parcels for expansion of program and cultural activities for a total cost of \$1,328,453.

— Sault Health Center opened two new clinics - one in Gladstone and one in Detour Village to reduce the travel needed to obtain needed services.

— A Fish Rearing Pond was built at cost of \$290,500 with funding from the US Department of Agriculture.

— Completion in 2022 of a two bay Industrial Warehouse at a cost of \$3,850,000. This project was funded with a Economic

Development Administration Grant of \$3,276,000, a \$250,000 Grant from the Michigan Economic

— Development Corporation and \$332,400 in Tribal matching funds.

— Tribal infrastructure improvements made with Department of Transportation funds totaled \$821,787.

## ARPA - use of funds in 2022

— In May 2021, the Sault Tribe was fortunate to receive over \$235,394,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The tribe then began the process of distributing a portion of these funds directly to tribal members. So far in 2021 and 2022 over 43,198 members each received \$2,000 for a total of \$86,396,000.

— In 2022, ARPA funds were used to begin construction of 38 affordable housing units at various locations throughout the tribe's service area. The goal for this project is to provide community members another source of desirable housing alternatives. As of Dec. 31, six of these units were occupied. Total anticipated costs of the project is \$ 7.4 million with completion expected in 2023.

— In January 2022, the Sault Tribe developed a Commercial Fisher Assistance Program to help tribal fishers replace the loss of revenues due to the pandemic. The tribe distributed \$529,879 in funds to 120 Fishers that documented their loss in revenues.

— Also in 2022, the Sault Tribe began to implement the board approved housing and community center expansion projects. Each unit in the service area received funds to initiate the projects based upon the need developed in that unit.

— Another critical element of the ARPA funding is the provision for the computation of "Revenue Loss." This is a calculation of the tribal-wide loss of revenues beginning in March 2020 with the onset of the COVID pandemic and initially ending at Dec. 31 and comparing it to 2018 and 2019 revenues. A similar computation was performed during 2022. The goal is to gauge the impact this loss of revenues had on the ability of the tribe to provide services to members and fund the administration of the organization and to use ARPA funds to supplement this loss in revenues. For 2022, the Sault Tribe was able to use \$15,977,458 of ARPA funds in this manner.

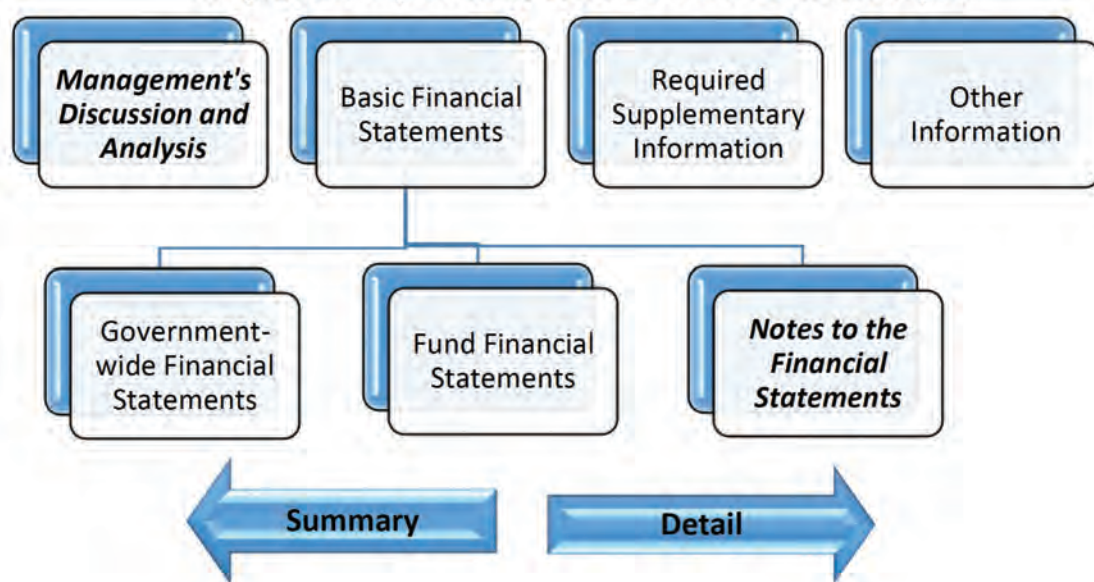
— A number of projects were undertaken at the various tribal health centers using funds provided through ARPA. This includes new exam room equipment, optical equipment, improved sanitizing systems, new HVAC and boiler systems, parking lot replacements, etc. A number of these larger projects will be completed in 2023.

— In November 2022, the Sault Tribe purchased an existing motel to be used as a temporary residence for displaced persons. This project is under the direction of the Anishnebek Community and Family Services department. ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,317,588 were used to complete the purchase.

— US Fish and Wildlife-Aquatic Invasive Species:

Figure A-1

## Required Components of Tribe's Annual Financial Report



### Enterprise Major Projects

— One of Sault Kewadin Casino's major projects that began 2021 was an upgrade to its Video Surveillance System. This was completed in 2022 for a total cost of \$3.8 million. The other 4 Kewadin locations upgraded their systems as well for a cost of \$2.5 million.

— Additional Casino equipment and improvements totaled \$3,456,434 with the major project being the replacement of slot machines at all 5 locations. Each location also added full service Gaming Kiosks which provide ATM availability and marketing opportunities for the Casinos.

— The Sault Casino also completed a major overhaul of their Superior Side Parking Lot for a total cost of \$1,158,200. This included the infrastructure replacement and new paving.

— Non-Gaming Enterprise funds procured additional properties, buildings and improvements along with equipment additions. The Property Management Companies continued the systematic replacement of roofs and furnaces for units at both the DeMawating and Sawyer locations.

— The two golf courses purchased in 2021 were fully operational in 2022. Course improvements, maintenance equipment along with new golf carts were among the capital purchases made during the season.

— In April, Sawyer Village purchased the Gladstone Medical Center in Gladstone, Mich., for use as a medical facility and community center for those Tribal members in the Gladstone/ Escanaba service areas.

— Sault Tribe Housing Authority fixed asset additions and improvements totaled \$1,352,658 and consisted of Land Improvements, Building and Structures, Equipment and Machinery and Vehicles. In addition, the Authority served a total of 960 tribal members under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program Grant as part of the American Recovery Program Act (ARPA). Total expenditures for this program were \$6,740,917 for the years 2021-2022.

In addition to the renewal of funding for a host of Tribal programs, new grant awards in 2022 consisted of the following expenditure amounts:

— US Fish and Wildlife-

\$86,998

— Natural Resources

Conservation Service:

\$290,456

— Great Lakes Coastal

Symposium: \$36,267

— Childcare Sustainability

Grant: \$132,612

### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of four parts - management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, required supplementary information and other information that presents combining statements for non-major governmental, internal service, enterprise and fiduciary funds. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the tribe.

See Figure A-1.

### Required Components of tribe's Annual Financial Report

— The first two statements are government-wide financial statements that provide both long-term and short-term information about the tribe's overall financial status.

— The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the tribe's government, reporting the tribe's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements.

— The governmental funds statements tell how government services like public safety and health and welfare were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

— Proprietary fund statements offer short and long-term financial information about the activities the government operates like businesses, such as the Gaming Authority and Midjims.

— Fiduciary fund statements provide information about the financial relationships-like the retirement plan of the tribe's employees- in which the tribe acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others, to whom the resources belong.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements. Figure A-1 shows how the required parts of this annual

report are arranged and relate to one another. In addition to these required elements, we have included a section with combining statements that provide details about our governmental funds and internal service funds each of which are added together and presented in single columns in the basic financial statements. Figure A-2 summarizes the major features of the tribe's financial statements. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis explains the structure and contents of each of the statements.

### Government-wide Statements

The government-wide statements report information about the tribe as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the government's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two government-wide statements report the tribe's net position and how they have changed. Net position - the difference between the tribe's assets and liabilities - is one way to measure the tribe's financial health, or position.

— Over time, increases or decreases in the tribe's net position are an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating, respectively.

— To assess the overall health of the tribe, consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the gaming industry regulations and changes in federal law.

The government-wide financial statements of the tribe are:

— Governmental activities - Most of the tribe's basic services are included here, such as health and welfare, public safety, education, and recreation and culture. Taxes, federal revenue, state revenue, and charges for services finance most of these activities.

— Business-type activities - The tribe charges fees to customers to help it cover the costs of certain services it provides. The tribe's Gaming Authority and businesses are included here.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the tribe's most significant funds - not the tribe as a



# Sault Tribe 2022 financial highlights continued

whole. Funds are accounting devices that the tribe uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending for particular purposes.

— Some funds are required by federal law.

— The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian’s board establishes other funds to control and manage grant money for particular purposes (Head Start, Fisheries, Sanitation, etc.).

The tribe has three kinds of funds:

— **Governmental funds** – Most of the tribe’s basic services are included in governmental funds, which focus on (1) how much cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the tribe’s programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, we provide additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statement, or on the subsequent page, that explains the relationship (or differences) between them.

— **Proprietary funds** – Internal services for which the tribe charges internal customers a fee are generally reported in the general fund. Proprietary funds, like the government-wide statements, provide both long and short term financial information. In fact, the tribe’s enterprise funds (one type of proprietary fund) are the same as its business-type activities, but provide more detail and additional information, such as cash flows. We use internal services for the tribe’s other programs and activities – such as the Management Information Systems, Human Resources, Accounting, etc.

— **Fiduciary funds** – The tribe is trustee, or fiduciary, for its employees’ pension plans. It is also responsible for other assets because of a trust arrangement – can be used only for the trust beneficiaries. The tribe is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in the funds are used for their intended purposes. All of the tribe’s fiduciary activities are reported in a separate statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. We exclude these activities from the tribe’s government-wide financial statements because the tribe cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TRIBE AS A WHOLE

**Net position.** The tribe’s combined governmental and business-type net position was \$204,959,436 for 2022.

### See Table A-1.

\$56.5 million of governmental assets are invested in capital assets (land, buildings and equipment) with \$99.9 million of business assets invested in the same manner.

Change in net position. The tribe’s total revenues from primary activities (excluding special items) was \$247 million. (See Table A-2.) The tribe’s revenue comes mainly

from gaming revenues, charges for services, taxes and federal sources.

The total cost of all primary activities was \$218 million and included both governmental and member services along with business-type operating costs excluding transfers and taxes.

The tribe was able to cover the current year’s costs for programs and services of governmental operations through revenues. Table A-2 and the narrative that follows consider the operations of governmental-type activities and business-type activities separately.

## Governmental and Business-type Activities

— Revenues for the tribe’s governmental activities decreased (27.3)%, while total expenses decreased (43.9)%.

— Revenues for the tribe’s business-type activities increased 6.47%, while total expenses increased 37.48%.

### Table A-2 Changes in tribe’s Net Position

#### Governmental Activities

Table A-2 presents the cost of each of the tribe’s five largest programs—health and welfare, public safety, recreation and culture, education, and general government as well as its judicial services, public works and interest expense.

— The cost of all governmental activities this year was \$111.4 million.

— The cost of those services was paid from the following:

- Taxes of \$9.38 million
- Charges for services of \$31.2 million
- Operating and Capital Grants of \$103 million.
- Component unit distributions of \$3.2 million.
- Interest, dividends and other revenues of \$829 thousand.

The increase in governmental net position for 2022 was \$35.1 million.

#### Business-type Activities

Revenues of the tribe’s business-type activities were \$94.9 million and expenses were \$106.7 million. (Refer to Table A-2). Business-type activities provide all of the governmental tax revenues, and the decrease in net position for the businesses in 2022 was (\$12.5) million after taxes.

As the tribe completed the year, its governmental funds reported, on Page 19, a combined fund balance of \$46.1 million, an improvement in combined fund balance of \$24.2 million from 2021. The primary reason for the increase in fund balance is highlighted in the analysis of governmental activities. In addition, these other changes in fund balance should be noted:

- Debt service expenditures were \$2.8 million.
- \$9.1 million net was transferred from other activities to the General Fund, an increase of 141% from 2021.

### General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Over the course of the year, the tribe’s Board made several changes to the tribe’s budget. The budget process falls into three categories:

- Original budgets are approved by the Board prior to the beginning of the program’s fiscal year.
- Amendments and supplemental appropriations are approved as needed by the Board of Directors during the course of the fiscal year

**Net position.** The Tribe’s combined governmental and business-type net position was \$204,959,436 for 2022. (See Table A-1.)

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Current and Other Assets	\$ 309,510,634	\$ 295,073,971	\$ 33,413,844	\$ 22,294,411	\$ 342,924,478	\$ 317,368,382
Capital Assets	63,276,405	55,117,353	105,119,815	98,835,601	168,396,220	153,952,954
Deferred Outflows of Resources	317,597	42,891	-	-	317,597	42,891
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 373,104,636</b>	<b>\$ 350,234,215</b>	<b>\$ 138,533,659</b>	<b>\$ 121,130,012</b>	<b>\$ 511,638,295</b>	<b>\$ 471,364,227</b>
Current Liabilities	\$ 220,929,108	\$ 231,927,506	\$ 13,578,946	\$ 2,083,008	\$ 234,508,054	\$ 234,010,514
Noncurrent Liabilities	30,471,902	32,346,216	40,978,837	22,606,191	71,450,739	54,952,407
Deferred Inflows of Resources	720,066	97,539	-	-	720,066	97,539
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>252,121,076</b>	<b>264,371,261</b>	<b>54,557,783</b>	<b>24,689,199</b>	<b>306,678,859</b>	<b>289,060,460</b>
<b>Net Position</b>						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	56,535,772	47,539,065	99,965,884	93,020,956	156,501,656	140,560,021
Restricted	-	-	-	604,022	-	604,022
Unrestricted	61,447,788	38,323,889	(15,990,008)	2,807,135	45,457,780	41,131,024
Designated	3,000,000	-	-	8,700	3,000,000	8,700
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 120,983,560</b>	<b>\$ 85,862,954</b>	<b>\$ 83,975,876</b>	<b>\$ 96,440,813</b>	<b>\$ 204,959,436</b>	<b>\$ 182,303,767</b>

\$56.5 million of governmental assets are invested in capital assets (land, buildings and equipment) with \$99.9 million of business assets invested in the same manner.

Table A-2  
Changes in Tribe’s Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
<b>Revenues</b>				
Program Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 31,152,361	\$ 18,682,786	\$ 94,827,553	\$ 83,270,328
Operating grants and Contributions	101,917,920	154,904,343	-	-
Capital grants and Contributions	1,782,412	2,047,244	-	-
General Revenues:				
Taxes	9,379,280	29,768,393	-	-
Interest/Dividends	4,226,060	(10,175)	112,959	175,945
Component unit distributions	3,200,000	3,250,000	-	-
Other	-	(4,646)	-	5,721,422
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 151,658,033</b>	<b>\$ 208,637,945</b>	<b>\$ 94,940,512</b>	<b>\$ 89,167,695</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Gaming Authority	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,745,567	\$ 60,664,348
Other	-	-	21,015,886	16,992,589
Judicial	1,649,905	1,461,787	-	-
Education	10,816,725	9,627,407	-	-
Health and Welfare	73,128,002	153,128,402	-	-
Recreation and Culture	2,794,986	3,895,345	-	-
Public Safety	4,778,965	4,540,925	-	-
General Government	12,182,640	19,495,493	-	-
Public Works	2,959,156	3,468,644	-	-
Interest Expense	3,171,817	3,245,479	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 111,482,196</b>	<b>\$ 198,863,482</b>	<b>\$ 106,761,453</b>	<b>\$ 77,656,937</b>
Excess	\$ 40,175,837	\$ 9,774,463	\$ (11,820,941)	\$ 11,510,758
Gain (loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	6,750	-	-	-
Transfers	(5,061,981)	(5,719,502)	5,061,981	5,719,502
Taxes	-	-	(5,710,221)	(8,095,122)
Change in Net Position	35,120,606	4,054,961	(12,469,181)	9,135,138
<b>Net Position - Beginning</b>	<b>85,862,954</b>	<b>81,807,993</b>	<b>96,445,057</b>	<b>87,309,919</b>
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>	<b>\$ 120,983,560</b>	<b>\$ 85,862,954</b>	<b>\$ 83,975,876</b>	<b>\$ 96,445,057</b>

— Year-end modifications are made during the calendar year as needed for programs with non-December year ends.

Even with these adjustments, actual expenditures as shown on page 64 were \$2.4 million less than the final budgeted general fund amounts. The actual excess of revenues over expenses and other uses was \$869 thousand less than the final budget anticipated. This is due, in part, to lower tax and other revenues, less debt service costs and higher transfers in than the final budgeted amounts.

The most significant variances were as follows:

- Tax revenues were significantly lower and this was offset by other financing sources.
- Debt service costs were less.
- General government costs were less.
- Other financing uses of funds were less.

### CAPITAL ASSETS

At the end of 2022, the tribe has invested \$168,396,220 in a broad range of capital assets, including land, machinery and equipment, buildings, roads, and vehicles.

The principal change in capital assets consists mainly of land purchases and equipment purchases. More detailed information about the tribe’s capital assets is presented in Note H to the financial statements.

### Long-Term Debt

At year end, the tribe had approximately \$14.4 million in notes payable. There was no Governmental debt at year end and Internal Service debt decreased by \$838,000. More detailed information about the tribe’s long-term liabilities is presented in Note J to the financial statements.

### ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR’S BUDGETS AND RATES

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the tribe’s operations. The tribe is carrying over \$110.7 million of unspent ARP Act of 2021 COVID-19 disaster relief. The effect of COVID-19 continues to impact all aspects of the tribal economy during 2023 from both the governmental and business perspectives. It will remain to be seen how quickly both the general and tribal

economies recover.

These indicators were taken into account when adopting the General Fund budget for fiscal 2023. The amount appropriated in the General Fund budget for operations is \$14.6 million, which is a 1.1% decrease from final fiscal 2022 budget. The tribe will use its revenues to finance current and expected future programs, program expansions into outlying areas, and the expected impact of inflation on those programs.

The largest fiscal 2023 budgeted expenditures are for direct services, consulting / subcontracting, and expansion of member services. If these estimates are realized, the tribe’s budgetary General fund balance is expected to remain steady by the close of fiscal 2023.

As for the tribe’s business-type activities, we expect that the 2023 results will also improve based on these items:

- Reduction in operating costs.
- Reduction in Debt Service.
- Increase in operating margin.



# Tribal Court 2022 accomplishments and plans

One of the most important aspects of our tribe's sovereignty is the exercise of jurisdiction through the tribe's judicial system. It is the Tribal Court's responsibility, and therefore that of the Judge, Court Administrator/Magistrate and all court staff, to adjudicate the cases that come before it. Our Tribal Court hears a wide range of cases, as authorized by our Tribal Code, including child welfare, juvenile delinquency, adult criminal, conservation, landlord-tenant, general civil lawsuits, and personal protection orders. Appeals from the trial level court's decisions can be filed with the Tribal Court of Appeals. Our trial level Tribal Court consists of the Chief Judge, the Court Administrator/Magistrate, the Court Clerk, the Deputy Court Clerk, Receptionist, two Probation Officers, the Specialty Court Coordinator, and a part-time Field Surveillance Officer/Bailiff.

## Court Administration

In 2022, 511 new cases of various case types were filed in Tribal Court. The court held 1,393 total hearings during 2022, including arraignments, pre-trials, motion hearings, plea hearings, bench trials, jury trials, sentencing, dispositional review hearings and permanency planning hearings. While the majority of hearings took place in Sault Ste. Marie in the George K. Nolan Judicial Building courtroom, over one-third of the hearings were held by Zoom videoconference to allow litigants to appear for court remotely from locations within the service area, and even across the country, including from jails and prisons. In addition, the court issued about 2,500 Court orders and opinions the past year. In 2022, the Court was able to hold eight adoption hearings and finalize 13 permanent juvenile guardianships this year as well, which are always among some of the most joyful days at the court.

## Probation Department

The safety of individual victims and the community is the foundation of the services of the Tribal Court Probation Department. Those services are tailored to the individual needs and circumstances of each probationer and are intended to facilitate accountability, while providing opportunities for personal growth. In 2022, 46 adults and 15 juveniles were sentenced to terms of probation with Tribal Court and were ordered to complete services. Again, probation staff had to adjust some of their usual monitoring practices this year, due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, but they were still able to provide intensive probation oversight using technology such as Zoom, phone calls and text messaging to meet with clients virtually. The court made significant use of electronic monitoring devices like GPS tethers and Soberlink devices in lieu of placing offenders in jail, and probation staff still conducted 849 drug screens and 813 preliminary breath tests of probationers and defendants on bond. This year, Tribal Court probationers completed 700 total hours of work service in the community.

Tribal Court operated the

Gwaiak Miicon Drug Court for the 22nd consecutive year. Drug Court is a program for offenders who have substance use disorder and who are at high risk of engaging in further criminal conduct without intervention. Drug Court, as a treatment court, combines court oversight with substance abuse treatment services to focus on the reasons an offender engages in criminal activity. If, as a tribal community, we can treat the "why" someone commits crime, we can reduce crime. Each week a team of service providers from the tribal criminal justice and treatment systems, including probation, defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, behavioral health treatment providers, law enforcement, peer recovery coaches, and judicial staff, meets prior to each review hearing to discuss how each client is doing and determine if there should be updates to their services, any sanctions imposed to address non-compliance, or any incentives handed out to reward and promote compliance. In 2022, we held two graduation ceremonies at the court to celebrate participants' successful completion of the program and their continued sobriety.

The court continued its Domestic Violence (DV) Court program this year for offenders convicted of abusive crimes against an intimate partner. DV Court is a specialized docket that allows the justice system to have intensive oversight on cases, enhances victim safety, and holds offenders accountable while offering them rehabilitative services to deter repeat offenses. Participants must attend frequent court review hearings, attend Men's Group, complete a behavioral health assessment and treatment if recommended, and write a series of essays on power and control. Tribal Court Probation staff trained in the Men's Education Group Duluth Model facilitate the weekly



group. The curriculum is 26 weeks, and we also incorporate cultural teachings and two sweat lodges into our program through collaboration with Traditional Medicine. Tribal Court and ACFS clients attend, and we also accept referrals from state court and Bay Mills Tribal Court for a fee.

## Violence Against Women Action (VAWA) Reauthorization

On March 15, the 2022 Reauthorization of VAWA was signed into federal law. This reauthorization extends the Bureau of Prisons Tribal Prisoner Program, allowing for Tribal Courts to sen-

tence felons to the BOP. It also adds categories of conduct for which non-Indians can be prosecuted in Tribal Court including sexual assault, stalking, child violence, obstruction of justice, sex trafficking, and assaults against justice personnel. The federal law permitted tribes to exercise expanded jurisdiction beginning on Oct. 1, 2022.

On Sept. 27, 2022, our tribal Board of Directors adopted a resolution to codify the new amendments to the Violence Against Women Act and grant our tribe and Tribal Court jurisdiction over additional crimes committed by non-Native offenders. Drafting the new code provisions and advocating for their adoption to expand Tribal Court's jurisdiction was a joint effort of the entire Tribal Justice System (Tribal Court, Advocacy Resource Center, ACFS, Prosecutor's Office, Law Enforcement).



## Other 2022 Accomplishments

Tribal Court staff regularly participated in community events in 2022 and also serve on many community workgroups and committees focusing on tribal and community justice issues.

— Judge Fabry sits on the Board of Directors for Families Against Narcotics (FAN of Chippewa County. Court Administrator/Magistrate Traci Swan served on the Chippewa County Communities that Care coalition throughout 2022, whose focus is to reduce youth risk behaviors. Swan also serves our tribe on the national VAWA Inter-Tribal Work Group and Judge Fabry serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals, the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum, and the Michigan Supreme Court Child Welfare Leadership Workgroup.

— Court Administrator/Magistrate Swan was among the attendees at the December 2022 ITWG meeting.

— Sept. 22, 2022, Tribal Court and Behavioral Health again partnered to host the tribe's 12th annual Recovery Walk to celebrate those in recovery and to recognize the strength of our local recovery community. The walk started with a prayer by Traditional Healer Gerard Sagassige. Participants walked through the reservation and returned to the Big Bear Arena for dinner, games, and prizes. Many people took to the microphone to share their stories of recovery. Since 2011, we have held the Recovery Walk every September, National Recovery month, to celebrate those in recovery, to recognize the strength of our local recovery community, and to spread the message that recovery is possible.

— Tribal Court hosted an Online Expungement Clinic in conjunction with the University of Detroit Mercy Law School and Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center in June 2022. University law students, under the direction of an attorney, assisted 16 tribal members with the process for applying for expungement of state court convictions. Planning is in process for an in-person expungement clinic in 2023.

## Tribal Court Goals for 2023

— Advocate to increase jurisdiction of the Tribal Court under the Tribal Law & Order Act, which would increase the maximum criminal penalty for a crime from 1 year to 3 years confinement.

— Obtain additional space to effectively operate the Tribal Court, to allow for victim safety, client privacy, adequate jury space, and space for public resources.

Please like "Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court" on Facebook for current information on court events, jury duty, court closures and other items of interest.

## CONTACT

Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court, 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Telephone: (906) 635-4963  
Fax: (906) 635-4952



# Law Enforcement 2022 overview, 2023 goals

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) manages and oversees the general administration of police services/public safety, Treaty Rights/conservation licensing and enforcement, Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) responsibilities, and oversight of Sault Tribe Youth Facility (STYF). STLE also manages several federal grants from writing grant proposals to managing the awards which includes budget development, compliance assurance, project implementation, and closing out once all objectives are achieved. STLE develops and manages approved budgets – in 2022, STLE was responsible for 12 separate budgets (department operations, grant awards, etc.) totaling approximately \$4.9 million.

STLE is made up of a sworn police force of 25 officers that serve Sault Tribe's seven-county service area and its 1836 Treaty Area for conservation enforcement activities, which includes the Chief of Police, three Sergeants and 19 patrol officers and two SRC who are located throughout the service delivery area, one Office Manager, and two Emergency Dispatch / Licensing Coordinators. Sault Tribe Youth Facility (STYF) operates a 25-bed correctional facility that houses youth ages 11-17. STYF employs a Facility Administrator, 12 Detention Officers, two Lead Maintenance staff and two Lead Cooks.

STLE officers respond to a wide variety of complaints in addition to performing community policing services that include attending community events and providing educational services to local schools. An example of some of the responsibilities our officers have in the service delivery area include traffic safety, responding to complaints including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, suicides or attempts, natural or suspicious deaths, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, child abuse and neglect, and so forth. Officers also engage in community activities such as attending community fairs and events and going into local schools to provide educational presentations to children of various ages.

STLE officers provide conservation enforcement services as well by patrolling and enforcing Great Lakes (Tribal Code Chapter 20) and Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority codes for commercial, subsistence, subsistence gillnetting, and recreational fishing; and Inland hunting, fishing, and gathering codes (Tribal Code Chapters 21 and 23). Almost every day of the year, you will see a STLE conservation officer out on patrol, either on the road or on the water. While conducting water patrols, officers check nets to ensure they are being placed code compliant and check fish on boats they encounter on the lakes to ensure daily catch limits are code compliant.

STLE's conservation enforcement duties are defined in the Tribal Code. Officers that conduct road patrols stop and talk with fishermen and check licenses to ensure they are engaging in authorized activity, patrol



Head Start 3- to 5-year-olds with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement officers and Santa at an STLE Christmas visit.

through campgrounds where camping permits were issued to tribal members engaging in treaty gathering rights, make sure there are no issues or questions members have regarding their treaty rights and return phone calls to members who call with specific questions. This is just a sampling of what our conservation officers do every day.

STLE's licensing office handles so much more than just treaty licenses. They accept and enter receipt of treaty licensing catch reports, accept and enter any court or prosecutor documents that are required to be entered into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) including warrants, bond conditions and personal protection orders. They are the first point of contact for any community members who visit or call STLE for any purpose, be it treaty licensing, filing a complaint, following up on a complaint, requesting police report copies, and responding to walk-in and phone questions regarding treaty licensing and ensuring that officers respond to questions that are code related. They dispatch STLE officers to non-emergency calls. Emergency calls must be called in to 911.

In 2022, this office issued over 4,300 Inland harvest cards with over 11,200 associated hunting tags, processed 651 bear applications and 659 elk applications, and entered 2,081 inland harvest reports. They issued 57 commercial captain, two small mesh permits and 67 commercial helper licenses, and entered 529 commercial catch reports. They issued 181 Great Lakes subsistence gillnet licenses and 165 subsistence licenses, and entered 2,727 subsistence catch reports. They coordinate, assist and escort ACFS staff when they need to fingerprint possible foster parents. They also assist in planning for and serving as counselors at

the annual Jr. Police Academy when STLE is able to host it. For the past several years, STLE has had to make the hard decision to cancel it. These are a sampling of what STLE's front office takes care of each year for our membership.

**Some of STLE's 2022 accomplishments include the following:**

- Hired a new SORNA Coordinator, Derek O'Dell.
- Sent multiple officers to trainings, including ARIDE, Anti-Trafficking Operations, Human Trafficking, Armorer, Death Investigation, Interrogation, FTO (field training Officer), Taser Instructor certification, Forensic Interview, K-9 Patrol and Narcotics, Child Forensic training, and Pistol Shoot/Taser.
- Participated in the Special Election and Advisory Election Ballot Count by picking up ballots and standing by.
- Participated in the team building at Sherman Park, Trunk or Treat at the Big Bear, the Domestic Violence Walk, drive through Health fairs, and helped bring Santa Claus to the Sault Tribe Head Start program.
- Continued to support the goals and objectives of the Tri-County Drug Enforcement Team (TRIDENT) by dedicating one officer to serve on this team. Their main goal is to eliminate illicit narcotics trafficking in Sault Tribe's and surrounding communities.
- Submitted numerous conservation articles to be published in the Sault Tribe newspaper.
- SORNA Project Coordinator worked with many departments to make sure the public has the most up-to-date information regarding offenders in our areas.
- Sat on the Sault High Advisory Board, Lake Superior State University (LSSU) MCOLES Advisory Board, and hosting interns from LSSU and Sault High School

- Assisted at multiple Community Mobile food pantries hosted by JKL Bahweting School
- Ensured continued compliance with Sault Tribe's Chapter 72-Sex Offender Registration and Notification Code, which included ensuring that all offenders within Sault Tribe's jurisdiction were registered, updated, or verified.
- Canceled the 2022 Jr. Police Academy do to much needed upkeep of the Bodne Bay Facility.
- Successfully completed annual firearms qualifications under state and federal regulations (to meet 40 hours of continuing education under MCOLES licensing standards.)
- Applied directly for, and was awarded, a Department of Homeland Security grant, which provides funding for STLE officers to assist the U.S. Border Patrol in providing increased border security along the northern border.
- Chief of Police participated in numerous Consent Decree negotiations
- Developed and submitted annual budgets as required and held spending at or below those budgeted amounts.
- Developed and submitted required grant reports.
- Continued to make progress with submitting repair and maintenance requests through the BIA's Maximo program to ensure that required maintenance on the facility is completed in a timely manner and that the BIA reimburses STYF for eligible projects

**Among STLE's 2023 goals and objectives are:**

- Continue to focus on and enhance community-oriented policing objectives within each community it serves.
- Increase the training available to its officers in conservation enforcement.
- Continue to streamline its standard operating procedures to increase efficiency and productiv-

- ity.
- Continue to ensure that it remains in continued compliance with the Adam Walsh Act/SORNA requirements.
- Continue to work with the Natural Resources Department, IT Security and MIS to develop an online treaty licensing and reporting website for Inland Hunting and Fishing licenses and Subsistence licenses, as well as online reporting for Inland, Subsistence, and Commercial required catch reports (commercial fishermen will continue to schedule appointments to obtain their licenses as there are additional requirements that cannot be implemented online.)
- Review, research, and implement various administrative and cost savings measures to increase efficiency at the youth center while providing the same level of care and services to its residents
- Ensure that all newly hired detention officers attend and successfully complete the Federal Corrections Academy.
- Work with the youth in custody to develop and maintain a facility garden where the produce will be donated to community members.
- Ensure that all training and certification requirements are met.
- Continue to utilize BIA's MAXIMO program for necessary repairs and enhancements at the facility.
- Maintain and enhance its relationships with agencies that it works with – tribes, county and state courts, etc.





# Natural Resources Fisheries 2022 Highlights

The Fisheries Program is the biological program charged with implementing the fisheries management aspects of the 2000 and 2007 Consent Decrees. Our program focuses on interagency fisheries management, harvest assessment, adaptive ecosystem management and public outreach.

## Protecting tribal treaty rights and natural resources

In order to continue to be co-managers of the resource, Sault Tribe must continue to be a strong voice in the biological management committees across the 1836 Treaty territory and the Great Lakes region. Staff serves on numerous committees protecting treaty rights including Technical Fisheries Committee, Modeling Subcommittee, and lakes Huron, Superior, and Michigan Technical Committees.

## Fish donations

Fish caught in assessment surveys were brought to a fish processor to have the fish cleaned for distribution. This facility fillets, debones, vacuum seals, and flash freezes the fillets. The processed fish are then brought to the Nokomis-Mishomis Building to be donated to the elder meal programs. In 2022, 228 pounds of fresh frozen fillets and 83 pounds of assorted smoked fish were donated.

## Hatchery

### Walleye (ogaa) rearing

Sault Tribe has been conducting walleye (ogaa) rearing for over 30 years. Currently, this takes place at the Barbeau Fish Culture Facility (BFCF) and consists of a hatchery building and three drainable ponds. Ogaa brood stock were collected from Potogannissing Bay at ice out. Over 1 million summer ogaa fingerlings were stocked with 87,000 of these going to inland waterways. In addition to the summer fingerlings 500,000 ogaa fry were stocked into the Tahquamenon River and Millecoquins Lake.

### Atikameg (whitefish) rearing

This project has been funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the BIA. In the fifth year of this project, one of the focuses was to raise whitefish (atikameg) in an earthen pond and try a new method of placing fertilized eggs in a river to hatch. Around 90,000 eggs were set to incubate in the Carp River. Larval drift surveys will be conducted in spring 2023 to determine effectiveness. Atikameg were stocked at the Odenaang pond in sault Ste. Marie in the spring. Water and fish conditions were monitored until fish averaging 5.5 inches were netted from pond in mid-October. Sault Tribe has quickly gained international attention for its successful pond rearing experiments and partners have expressed interest to the Fisheries Program hoping to help with this project. Sault Tribe has become the leader of whitefish hatchery rearing in North America and is quickly outpacing the European hatcheries in quality of fish produced.

## Assessments

In order for Sault Tribe to continue to lead in fisheries management, high quality data recording and reporting are required. In 2022, staff travelled over 12,000

miles collecting more than 10,000 samples from lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan. Lab work resulted in the aging of almost 2,000 fish while the contents of 237 stomachs were analyzed.

## Fish (gigoonh) community surveys

Every year, Fisheries staff conducts fisheries independent surveys across lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan. This is always a monumental task that covers a large spatial area with more net lifts and samples than all other tribes combined!

## Commercial Surveys

The sampling of the commercial harvest is an important part of Great Lakes fishery management. This information provides needed insights into the sizes and age structures of the fish being harvested by the commercial fishery. Data collected from the sampling of the commercial fishery goes directly into the MSC models to inform harvest limit decisions.

## Aquatic invasive species survey

AIS surveys took place over three seasons in 2022. This multi-partner survey continues to yield important insights in the St. Mary's River and is our best line of defense against invasive species. Over 3,500 fish from 39 different species were captured. No new invasives were caught in 2022.

## River coregonid surveys

The Fisheries Program has started surveying rivers looking for sites that currently have atikameg (whitefish) or other coregonids migrating up to spawn. Pre-European settlement, river run Atikameg were an important part of the population. Heavy logging contributed to the disappearance of these populations due to increased temperature, sediment loading, and spawning site destruction. During the 2022 surveys, Fisheries staff captured the first female atikameg they had seen in the Escanaba River since the project began in 2018. The majority of fish caught during these surveys were pacific salmonids.

## ROV/Deepwater

In 2022, Sault Tribe purchased and began using an underwater remote operating vehicle (ROV) to better understand and visualize fish in their habitats. In year one, staff focused on the deepwater (up to 400 feet) fish community in Lake Michigan and discovered the lake bed completely carpeted by invasive quagga mussels. In late summer of 2022, staff put the ROV to work on an unanticipated task — finding and recovering a lost acoustic receiver. Two of the receivers were recovered in 2022 with two more searches planned for 2023.

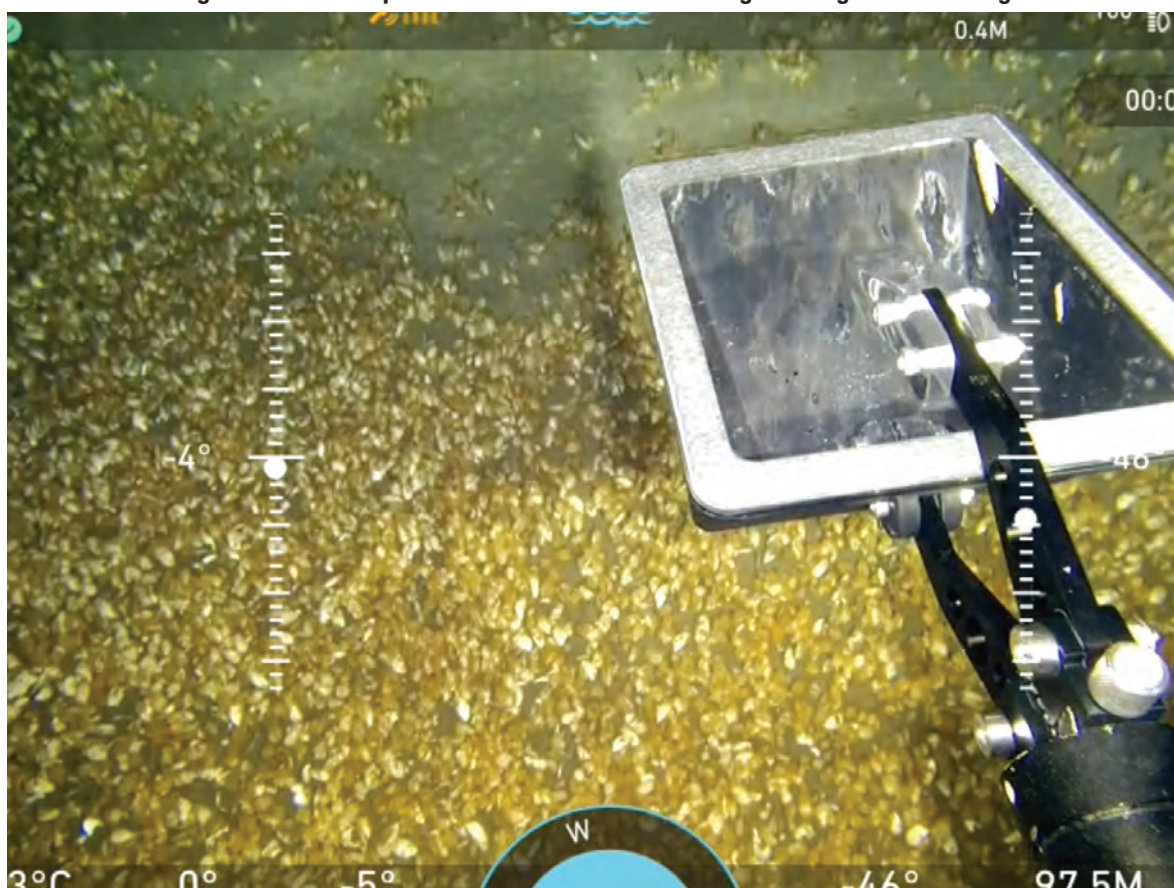
## Lab Work

Winters are filled with studying the samples collected during our field season and repairing gear. In 2022, close to 2,000 structures were collected to be aged during the winter of 2023.

Staff inspect otoliths from captured ogaa, looking for oxy-tetracycline (OTC) marks. These marks are only visible under a microscope with a specialized light that makes the mark glow green indicating that fish came from a hatchery.



Assessment Biologist Jason Smith poses with a chinook salmon caught during river atikameg work.



Blanket of invasive quagga mussels at 400 feet in Lake Michigan near Fairport.



Fisheries Technicians Rich Reining and Dave Pine (L-R) use a neuston net while looking for larval Atikameg.



# Natural Resources *Wildlife* 2022 Highlights

## Assessing Sault Tribe Inland Harvest

In 2022, Sault Tribe issued 6,664 individual harvest permits to approximately 4,293 Sault Tribe harvest license holders to exercise treaty rights within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Of license holders, approximately 3,936 members selected a hunting harvest license (includes hunting, inland fishing, and gathering), while approximately 303 members selected a non-hunting harvest card (includes inland fishing and gathering).

The Wildlife Program compiles an annual harvest and effort summary that is made available to the public each summer on the Natural Resources Department webpage at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## Bine (Ruffed Grouse)

Since 2018, the Wildlife Program has used a variety of methods to study habitat selection by ruffed grouse in the Hiawatha National Forest. Ruffed grouse are projected to decline with future climate change projections. This ruffed grouse assessment will result in an adaptive management plan for ruffed grouse in the 1836 Ceded Territory.

In February 2022, the final collar was recovered. Since the project began in 2018, 14 collars with data were successfully retrieved. This GPS data and camera detection data can be paired with high resolution land cover data to determine patterns in habitat selection and usage. This will help this Wildlife Program to better understand the relationship between ruffed grouse occupancy and forest characteristics and develop an adaptive management plan.

## Bizhiw (Canada Lynx) Habitat Assessment

The Wildlife Program seeks to assess snowshoe hare abundance on the major U.S. islands of the St. Mary's River (i.e., Sugar, Leebish, and Drummond Islands) to determine the forage suitability potential for Canada lynx. Also, we seek to quantify boreal forest community patterns and conduct occupancy surveys for Canada lynx and snowshoe hare. To do this, we perform a combination of camera trap surveys, track surveys, vegetation surveys, and hare fecal pellet collection. In 2022, staff completed a total of 90 track surveys, collected 172 hare fecal pellets, and set cameras for 1,726 trap nights. Analysis of this data will further our understanding of the future development of a management action plan.

Understanding Ecological Response to Ishkode (Fire)

A final report including the "Inter-agency Ishkode (Fire) Stewardship Plan" was submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Tribal Resilience Program in March 2022. This document integrates Sault Tribe priorities in the Hiawatha National Forest's fire management process. This plan is an adaptive management framework that will be a living document. It consists of three components, the plan itself, a community knowledge engagement summary, and the ecological response assessment framework.

In 2021, the Wildlife Program also collaborated with the USFS-DNRF to begin a project that aims to understand the roles of both herbivory and fire in wildlife



Sault Tribe staff member Kali Apelt with a trapped and collared ruffed grouse in the Ishkode project area.



Collared female wolf captured on remote trail camera in a cedar experimental silviculture site.

wintering complexes, specifically regarding northern-white cedar. The collaboration will result in prescribed burning and restoration of 100 acres of wintering complex habitat. This project was focused on quantifying forest health with vegetation assessments and growing our understanding of wintering complex value for multiple species with occupancy surveys via camera traps and snow track surveys. Field work concluded in March of 2022. The data collected throughout this project will help to determine wildlife abundance, occupancy, and wintering-complex usage.

## Giizhik (Northern White-Cedar) Assessment

In 2022, STNRD initiated work with the USFS regarding the restoration and management of lowland ecological communities, specifically northern white-cedar stands. This assessment seeks to understand the impacts that silvicultural treatments, specifically thinning and irregular shelterwood cuts, and white-tailed deer browse have on the recruitment and regeneration of northern white-cedar. It also seeks to understand the impacts of these silvicultural treatments on seasonal wildlife use.

Staff from Sault Tribe partnered

with USFS and MTU MI-Cedar field crew and completed 50 vegetation assessments in the three irregular shelterwood zones. These assessments are part of the pre-treatment work to understand current vegetation structure and regeneration of northern white-cedar. Staff also set up cameras at the centroids of each site in 2022 to collect pre-treatment wildlife occupancy data.

## Ma'iingan (Gray Wolf) Assessment

Ma'iingan plays an important role in the creation story and in the ecology of remnant boreal ecosystems. Ma'iingan plays a vital role in maintaining balance across ecosystems. In areas where waawaashkeshi (white-tailed deer) are plentiful, increased ma'iingan densities have a positive impact on the amount of plants present, carbon cycling, and the regeneration and recruitment of tree species. Ma'iingan's ecological and cultural roles have contributed to them being one of the most polarizing species in the northern Great Lakes region. Tribally-led ma'iingan monitoring efforts in Michigan have been nonexistent and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has focused on minimum abundance estimates, leaving gaps in our understanding

of the ecological dynamics associated with ma'iingan.

To address the gaps in knowledge, the Wildlife Program has partnered with several agencies, including state, federal, and tribal entities, to develop a coordinated effort in understanding the ecological dynamics surrounding ma'iingan. The Wildlife Program seeks to combine previous knowledge with newly collected data on ma'iingan movement, distribution, habitat use, and population dynamics to understand the relationships between waabooz (snowshoe hare), waawaashkeshi, ma'iingan, and giizhik. The Wildlife Program also hopes to develop a population monitoring process for ma'iingan that utilizes multiple data sources and consolidates efforts between state, federal, and tribal agencies. These goals align with the Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management and Adaptive Ecosystem Management portions of Wildlife Program's Strategic Plan.

To accomplish these goals, Wildlife Program, in partnership with other agencies, will trap, collar, and complete health assessments on ma'iingan in the Hiawatha National Forest. To compliment these efforts, camera surveys and snow track surveys will also be conducted. These methods will help us to develop a deeper understanding of ma'iingan movement, distribution, habitat use, and population dynamics on the landscape along with abundance, density, and pack sizes.

In 2022, the Wildlife Program successfully trapped and collared two individuals. Location and movement data on these two individuals began immediately and will continue into the foreseeable future. Alongside our partners we assessed our trapping season and began work to better our methods. Combined camera survey and track surveys began in late 2022.

## Manoomin (Wild Rice) and Coastal Wetland Restoration

The Wildlife Program has been involved in invasive species management and coastal wetland restoration for a decade. This work has focused on innovative invasive species management and monitoring, restoration of coastal wetland vegetation, and determining the impacts of coastal wetland composition and structure for wildlife, including secretive marsh birds and waterfowl.

During 2022, the Wildlife Program continued work to restore manoomin (wild rice) to coastal wetlands in the St. Mary's River, and specifically to the Munuscong Bay area. During 2022, the Wildlife Program seeded an experimental manoomin restoration site for the fifth consecutive year, with the intention of continuing to learn from this experimental restoration site over time. During 2022, the Wildlife Program expanded on these efforts by working to understand manoomin restoration feasibility in the St. Mary's River at multiple coastal wetland sites. STNRD seeded 11 acres in Munuscong Bay and Bay De Wasai with manoomin and has plans to expand further in 2023.

Additionally, in 2022, the Wildlife Program continued mon-

itoring marsh birds and waterfowl occupancy in the St. Mary's River. The program completed three rounds of secretive marsh bird call back surveys at 30 sites across the St. Mary's River. Waterfowl counts took place at 5 different locations across the span of the fall migration. STNRD participated in aerial waterfowl counts across the Straits of Mackinac with Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) in October and November and has hopes to expand aerial counts into the St. Mary's River in the future.

## Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD is a terminal disease in cervid (deer family) populations and poses a great threat to Michigan's white-tailed deer herd. CWD-positive free-ranging deer have been documented in Michigan since 2015. The Wildlife Program is committed to continuing to play a leading role in tribal CWD surveillance, research, education, and outreach.

For 2022, the Sault Tribe CWD surveillance program continued collecting samples to test for the disease. Collection was voluntary and testing was free for all members. The Wildlife Program coordinated with other tribal natural resource agencies within the 1836 Ceded Territory to establish 24-hour sample collection sites. Sites were located at the main offices of the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department, Bay Mills Indian Community Department of Natural Resources, LTBB Natural Resources Department, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Natural Resources Department, and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Natural Resources. Collectively, the Tribes submitted 76 heads for testing. Fortunately, testing indicated that none of the collected samples were from CWD-infected deer.

## Inter-agency Activities and Collaborations

In addition to harvest management and wildlife assessments, the Wildlife Program engages in a number of inter-agency workgroups and committees. During 2022, Wildlife Program staff held leadership roles in the Wildlife Technical Committee, Michigan State University's Center for Cooperative Ecological Resilience, the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative.

The Wildlife program hosted the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly at the Kewadin Convention Center in Sault Ste Marie, which had nearly 150 other conservation practitioners, scientists, and coastal wetland stakeholders in attendance. Wildlife Program staff also collaborated on processes and projects related to sharp-tailed grouse, Canada lynx, and grey wolves.

During 2022, the Wildlife Program continued work in the Straits Area. This work seeks to understand the relationships between fire, herbivory by species such as white-tailed deer and snowshoe hare, and the associated effects for regeneration of species such as northern white cedar and hemlock, which serve as important winter resources for deer and other species.



# Sault Tribe Language & Culture 2022 overview

Some of the Language and Culture Division's major 2022 accomplishments:

By the end of 2022, the response and attendance following the COVID pandemic became a welcome flood of Anishinaabe participation.

The division was relocated to the Big Bear Arena. An October 2022 open house showcased various facets of the division in its new home.

In March 2022, the division hosted visitors to the Mary Murray Cultural Camp for sugarbush. School groups from the EUP came to haul sap and play in the snow. One group brought 95 people in one visit. Volunteers helped divide them between snowshoeing, hauling, storytelling and tapping.

Snow snake games were introduced to the community for the first time. Workshops were held in advance, giving folks a chance to make their own to keep and to compete with. A second annual competition was held in 2023.

In May 2022, the division was recognized with the Spectrum Ovation Award for its work in Native art preservation. A \$10,000 check came with the award, which allowed the division to purchase the "Paquin Collection," including some turn of the century black ash baskets.

The Baaweting Summer Gathering in July returned with huge turn-out estimated at 1,500 participants and spectators. The staff also assisted both the Sugar Island Powwow and Hessel



The Mary Murray Cultural Camp sugarbush.

Powwow, with some hands on labor.

In the Summer of 2022, the Division repatriated 41 ancestors home.

With a new Cultural Coordinator and Assistant, the Director held on-the-job training at the Culture Camp. In the Fall of 2022, the first lesson was turning Indigenous corn into hominy, real corn soup and drying corn. Future training will be sugar bush tapping, boiling, syrup, sugar and candy.

Seasonal ceremonies and clan feasts returned to the Niigaanagizhik Cultural Building, including Jiibaakwe — the ghost feast held traditionally in October and November.

The first Veteran's powwow

since COVID was once again held in Kinross in November. The division honored a community veteran who has worked hard over the years to advocate for the tribe's veteran memorials.

Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building hosted 34 funerals, 63 cultural gatherings, 55 family gatherings, and 12 tribal programs.

Approximately 275 of 350 elder videos were digitized.

The Ojibwe Language After School Program continues with eight regular learners on week days during the summer summer and every school day.

The Division staff respond frequently to requests for in-person workshops and presentation



The first Veteran's powwow since the COVID pandemic.

to schools, tribal programs asking staff to share cultural, historical information and language translation.

**2023 Goals and Objectives Culture – Bring more teaching of our culture to the community.**

Powwow dance and regalia workshops.

Request additional funding to hire a Cultural Coordinator for the western units.

Get the Cultural Leave Committee to meet to discuss issues and clarify what activities are eligible. Also, to recruit another member.

**Language – Goal is to increase use of Ojibwe throughout the tribe.**

Re-establish an in-person

gathering of tribal members learning Ojibwe to allow for use of the language.

Develop a plan to take to the Board of Directors to initiate within the Tribal businesses and offices the use of simple greeting and acknowledgements in the Ojibwe.

**Repatriation and Historical Preservation**

Complete preservation of Elders Tapes.

Develop a plan to rotate throughout the units some of the art and craft collections housed in the Learning Center.

Use the IML grant to purchase some professional camera equipment and get training in creating better video productions to post in the online sites.

# Sault Tribe Elder Services Division 2022 overview

The Elder Service Division experienced another great year delivering a wide variety of services to the community, such as in-home care, meals, transportation and outreach, to assure elders health, welfare and safety. In 2022, Elder Services provided a record 74,050 in elder services — in homecare, meal programs, outreach and transportation. The meal programs had all-time highs. There were 49,234 meals in total served to elders — 26,799 were congregate meals served by

curbside and drive-thru from the meal sites in Sault Ste. Marie, Hessel, St. Ignace, and Manistique.

(See table.)

In 2022, Elder Services continued to receive supplemental funding for the expansion of the Manistique Elder Meal Program with Home Delivered Meals. The program added meal delivery to homebound elders established through assessment. The operation was very successful and elders were greatly appreciative

for the new service.

Staff made over 6,500 home visits to assist elders in completing applications for tribal and non-tribal services programs across the seven-county service area.

State and federal funding sources help Native American Indian Elders with many program opportunities. The Elder Service Division received new grants in 2022, with Title VI Elder Nutrition Meal Program and Nutrition Services Incentive Program.

Other grants included funds from the Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging, Title VI Supplemental Funding and Title VI Supplemental Funding through the American Rescue Plan.

In May 2022, the Elder Subcommittees held their first meetings since the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions were lifted. All

of the committees met on their usual scheduled meeting day. The turnouts were successful and the elders were very happy to reconvene their business meetings. Elder Committees resumed their important role conducting their meetings in all of the seven-county service area.

Services	Sault	St. Ignace	Mack Is.	Hessel	Manistique	Munising	Marquette	Escanaba	Naubinway	Newberry	Outside Service Area	Total
<b>Consolidated</b>												
Congregate Meal	9368	4419	905	6321	4151	847	269	217	171	131	0	26,799
Home Delivered Meals	8020	2432	0	2046	3209	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,707
Frozen Meals	4115	545	0	609	1459	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,728
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elder Health Fund	38	29	0	10	15	16	11	15	3	4	25	166
Phone Contacts	8597	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,597
Information & Assistance	4010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,010
Loan Closet	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation	356	30	0	3	7	21	16	26	0	0	0	459
Medication Deliveries	1012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,012
UPCONNECT Transports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homemaker	1126	268	0	134	372	236	71	199	76	52	0	2,546
Personal Care	196	10	0	9	0	88	0	0	8	14	0	325
Respite Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Referrals	85	74	0	17	42	32	41	51	4	21	0	367
Ramps & Rails	8	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
Case Management	289	204	0	61	133	103	86	97	23	46	0	1,042
Outreach Program	578	549	2	20	1055	644	350	804	27	63	14	4,106
Elder Meeting Participan	396	221	0	258	225	281	269	217	169	129	0	2165
<b>Total Meals Only</b>	<b>21503</b>	<b>7396</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>8,976</b>	<b>8,819</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,234</b>
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>34949</b>	<b>8781</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>9,489</b>	<b>10,668</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>74,050</b>



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes gifts Eddie Synnett a Pendleton blanket as the eldest to attend the Sault area Christmas luncheon.



# Seven-county service area buildings, contacts

## AREA CODE IS (906)

### SAULT AREA BUILDINGS

**Kewadin Casino Hotel & Convention Center**  
2186 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
1-800-KEWADIN  
632-0530  
Sault Ste. Marie Employment Office 635-4937 or (866) 635-7032

### Sault Tribe Administration Building

523 Ashmun Street  
531 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
635-6050, (800) 793-0660  
Executive Director  
Legal Department  
Sault Tribe Prosecuting Attorney  
635-4749  
Tax Office

Budget Department  
Economic Development  
Chairperson

Assistant Executive Director  
Membership Liaison-Unit I  
Legislative Department

Board of Directors

IT Security

Facilities

Accounting

CFO Office

Payroll Department

Insurance Department

Northern Travel

Internal Auditor

Employee Specialist

Planning and Development

Transportation Department

MIS

Communications Department,

632-6398

Tamarack Business Center

Economic Development

Sault Tribe, Inc.

Sault Tribe Thrive

Telecommunications

### Big Bear Arena

2 Ice Circle Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
635-RINK (7465)

www.bigbeararena.com

Administration

Youth Programs

Events Management

Pro Shop

Concessions

TENANTS:

All-In-One Fitness Club: 635-4935

Physical Therapy: 635-4905

Community Health: 635-4994

Education Division Main Line:

635-7010

Higher Education: 635-7784

Adult Education: 495-5343

Workforce Innovation and

Opportunities Act: 635-4767

YEA Admin Office: 635-4944

Language & Culture Division:

635-6050

### Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building

11 Ice Circle Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
632-0239

### Mary Murray Culture Camp

266 Homestead Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
635-5604

### Powwow Grounds

10 Ice Circle Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

### Sault Tribe Health and Human Services Building

2864 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
632-5200

(877) 256-0009

Laboratory

Medical

Medical Billing

Medical Records

Radiology

Administration

Dental 632-5260

Patient Registration

Optical 632-5218

Pharmacy 632-5226

Behavioral Health 635-6075

Community Health 632-5210

Audiology, Traditional Medicine,

Nutrition, Home Health Aide,

Diabetes Coordinator

Purchased Referred Care 632-

5220 or (800) 922-0582

ACUTE Care Walk-In Clinic –

Monday through Friday, from 8

a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed weekends

and holidays.

### Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Education Center

4 Ice Circle Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Child Care/Head Start/Early Head

Start 635-7722 or 632-5258

### Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting School Public School Academy

1301 Marquette Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

635-5055

### Fred Hatch Building

206 Greenough Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Environmental Department

632-5575

### Mary Murray Building/Bonnie McKerchie Building

2218 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

ACFS 632-5250 or (800) 726-

0093

### USDA/Food Distribution

3601 Mackinaw Trail  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

635-6076

### Advocacy Resource Center

632-1808 or (877) 639-7820

Lodge of Bravery

Advocacy Services

Legal Aid

### “Bguasendam Gamigong”

#### Lodge of Hope

3901 I-75 Business Spur  
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

906-632-5000

### Nokomis-Mishomis Building

2076 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Elder Meals

Eldercare Services 635-4971,

(888) 711-7356

Gaming Commission 635-7042

Enrollment Department

Mailing address:

PO Box 1628

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

635-3396

632-8552

(800) 251-6597

### Natural Resource Department – Fisheries and Wildlife

2428 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

632-6132

### George K. Nolan Judicial Building

2175 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement/

Conservation 635-6065

For emergencies, dial 911

Tribal Court 635-4963

### Shedawin Building - Empty

2158 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Behavioral Health and Tribal

Court Use

### Sault Tribe Construction

3375 South M-129  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

635-0556

### Midjim Sault

2205 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

635-4782

### Riverside Village

2210 Riverside Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

498-9800

### Odenaang Storage

1288 E. Bobcat Court  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

498-9800

### Chippewa Storage

732 W. Spruce Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

498-9800

### Gitchi Auto, Home, and Recreation

220 W. 3 Mile Rd.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

203-4491

### Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course

2600 W 16th Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

635-7651

### Kincheloe Area Buildings

ACFS Kincheloe Office - Child

Placement

60 Kincheloe

Kincheloe, MI 49752

495-1232

### Sault Tribe Housing Authority

154 Parkside Drive  
Kincheloe, MI 49788

495-1450

495-5555

(800) 794-4072

Maintenance (855) 205-2840

Administrative Office

Public Works

Home Improvement/

Weatherization Program

Sanitation Program

Rental Programs

Home Ownership Programs

Resident Services

Emergency Rental Assistance

Program

### Enji Bgosendaming Endaa'aad, “Their Home of Hope” Sober

#### Living Homes

635-6075

### DeMawating Development

42 Woodlake  
Kincheloe, MI 49788

498-9800

### Youth Education and Activities Program - Rudyard/Kinross

Rudyard Schools (Facility not

owned by Sault Tribe)

11185 2nd Street

Rudyard, MI 49780

487-3471, ext. 228

### ST. IGNACE AREA BUILDINGS

#### Kewadin Casino St. Ignace

3015 Mackinac Trail  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

643-7071

1-800-KEWADIN

St. Ignace Employment Office

643-4176

Sault Ste. Marie Employment

Office 635-4937 or (866) 635-

7032

### St. Ignace Tribal Health Clinic & Human Services Center

1140 N. State Street, Suite 2805  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

Anishnaabek Community and

Family Services: By appointment

only. Call 632-5250 or (800) 726-

0093

Acupuncture (starting soon)

Administration

Advance Directives

After-hour Triage

Audiology

Case Management: 643-4983

Clinical Medical Care

Clinical Nursing Care

Community Health Nursing

Dental Clinic: 643-7202

Diabetes Care

DOT Physicals

Health Education

Hygienist

Immunizations

Laboratory Services

Mental Health

Nutrition Services

Optical Clinic: 643-4995

Pharmacy: 643-4996

Referral Coordinator: 643-0881

Smoking Cessation

Sports Physicals

Substance Abuse

Traditional Medicine

Triage Nursing

Wellness Exams (all ages)

Wellness Programs

### St. Ignace Elder Housing Complex

3017 Mackinac Trail  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Elder Meals

643-6484

### Lambert Center

225 WaSeh Drive  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Head Start 643-9733

Membership Liaison 643-2124

### Enji Maawanji’ Iding

(Former McCann School)

399 McCann Street

St. Ignace, MI 49781

643-3189

### Sault Tribe Youth Facility and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

1130 N. State Street  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Sault Tribe Youth Facility

643-0941

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

635-6065

For emergencies, dial 911

### Midjim St. Ignace

3045 Mackinac Trail  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

643-9906

### Mackinac Trail Storage

5104 Mackinac Trail  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

498-9800

### Youth Education and Activities Program - St. Ignace

LaSalle Middle School (Facility

not owned by Sault Tribe)

860 Portage Street

St. Ignace, MI 49781

643-7262



# Sault Tribe Health Division overview for 2021

The Sault Tribe Health Division had a very busy and successful year in 2022, as it resumed and expanded its services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The division operates four large health facilities and five smaller nursing stations across seven counties in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, recovery housing in Kincheloe and a fitness club in Sault Ste. Marie, serving over 12,400 tribal members and eligible patients.

The pandemic was a difficult time for everyone, especially health care workers. Health Division staff have shown their genuine dedication and exemplar professionalism by providing high-quality care to our patients. In 2022, Health Division's team members beat the record of previous year and conducted 633 audiology visits, 25,459 medical and Telemedicine visits, 2,621 Traditional Medicine visits, 10,348 Dental visits, 8,173 Behavioral and Telebehavioral visits, 3,635 laboratory visits, 68,242 pharmacy visits, 2,539 PT visits, 1,226 imaging visits, 13,229 Community Health and home care visits and 2,739 optical visits, totalling 138,844 visits.

In 2022 the Health Division received accreditations from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) for Medical services, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for 3D Mammography, the Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA) for Laboratory Services and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for Behavioral Health services. These accreditations are not easy to obtain, as they require meeting rigorous standards of quality and safety in service delivery and business practices. They also require a continuous improvement process that involves feedback from patients, staff, and the community. These accreditations demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

The Escanaba Tribal Center was moved to a new building in Gladstone in 2022, and a new nursing station in DeTour was opened. Using ARPA funds, all of the facilities have been outfitted with state-of-the-art telemedicine equipment. The Health Division has been using telemedicine since 2017 but by using the latest medical technology, it will allow the provider to look in ears, listen to heart and lung sounds, and even evaluate skin lesions all while interacting with the patient. The new equipment and facilities aim to improve access to health care in rural areas, where transportation and distance can be barriers.

The Health Division also completed several construction and renovation projects at its health centers, including updating equipment, expanding space, and enhancing safety measures. One project was the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center parking lot. Not only did it get much-needed resurfacing but patient and employee parking was expanded and also included infrastructure for future projects like a drive-thru pharmacy.



## Satisfaction Survey Results

After-visit phone surveys conducted by JP Morgan & Associates revealed that patients who visited the clinic in 2022 were highly satisfied with the care they received from their providers, but less satisfied with the access of services and the promptness of phone calls. The overall satisfaction result was 89%. These survey results are valuable as we continue to improve our processes to better serve the patients. Some of the challenges faced by the Health Division were due to severe staff shortages, increased demand for services and limited resources. As a division, we are grateful for the feedback from our patients and appreciate their trust in us. We are proud of our providers and their dedication to quality care. We are also aware of the areas where we need to improve and we are working hard to address them.

## Behavioral Health

The Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Program offers a variety of culturally sensitive outpatient treatment. Some of the services provided are screening, intake and assessment, therapy (e.g., play therapy, cognitive behavioral, etc.), psychiatric evaluation and follow-up care, crisis intervention and urgent care, outpatient services for substance use disorders, compulsive gambling counseling, alcohol and drug education and awareness, Matrix Group and Employee Assistance Program.

Urgent Care services are provided during regular clinic hours. Psychological testing is available for 5-year-olds through elderly patients. Telepsychiatry and psychiatric services are offered to clients through a referral from their primary care provider or therapist. Home-based parenting education services are available for those pregnant with a Sault Tribe baby and Sault Tribe parents with children up to age 5 through Family Spirit and Healthy Start. The Perinatal Opioid Response (NAS) program provides services for tribal households with those who are at risk for or involved with substance use disorders, and their infants and children. We also offer the Road to Wellness Program, to assist active clients with transportation to make it easier for them to attend appointments.

We are proud of the accomplishments achieved through our SAMHSA Sault Tribe Opioid Prevention and Response grant. This grant provides funding for our three Enji Bgosendam Endaa'aad (Their Home of Hope) recovery homes and staff. We are grateful to be able to help tribal members on their healing jour-



Telemedicine in Marquette.



The Gladstone Grand Opening. The Escanaba Tribal Center was moved to Gladstone in 2022.

neys by providing support and housing, "giving them a strong foundation of recovery." We also provide prevention services in our tribal communities by offering prevention programming in the schools, providing training and distribution of Narcan and Fentanyl in our tribal communities and planning recovery events.

We had a great turn-out at the Annual 2022 Recovery Walk last fall.

## Clinical Services - Rural Health

Rural Health encompasses the two larger health facilities Manistique and Munising, and three smaller clinics in Newberry, Marquette, and now Gladstone. Manistique and Munising provide medical and nursing, dental, optical, pharmacy, public health activities provided by Community Health staff, nutrition counseling, and Behavioral Health services. The three smaller clinics provide Public Health Services administered by Community Health staff, nutrition counseling, medication pick-up, information, education and access to all other tribal services. One of the innovative new features in the smaller clinics is the use of telemedicine

equipment that allows patients to connect with providers remotely and receive more options for their health care needs.

Rural Health had 4,854 medical visits, 106 telemedicine visits and 785 optical visits in 2022. The Hospital and Clinic Acute Care Service Agreements were completed for same day and after-hours health care services for tribal members residing in five counties.

## Clinical Services - St. Ignace

The St. Ignace Tribal Health Facility achieved several milestones in 2022, including successful partnerships with various universities and organizations, a thriving optical department and a positive accreditation survey. The facility has been collaborating with Central Michigan University's Comprehensive Community Clerkship Program for medical students and MSHS to mentor and train future health professionals.

In 2022, St. Ignace Tribal Health provided 5,103 medical visits, 879 telemedicine visits, and 84 patients triaged after-hours. It processed 2,416 referrals from primary care physicians and filled 44,065 prescriptions

in its pharmacy. The Optical Department had 721 patient visits. The facility also offered Community Health Nursing and Behavioral Health services.

## Clinical Services - Sault Ste. Marie

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center (STHC) is a major ambulatory facility that serves as the primary location for several key services, including Lab, Radiology, and Medical Records, which are provided to its satellite clinics. In 2022, the STHC recorded a total of 14,525 medical visits, 319 telemedicine consultations and 1,248 optical appointments.

The Sault Tribal Health Center Laboratory (STHC) offers a wide range of services for patients who need blood tests or other specimens collected. Patients can have their blood drawn and tests performed at the STHC Laboratory from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Patients who are fasting or have orders from outside providers should make an appointment by calling (906) 632-5230. Patients who are seen at STHC can have their blood drawn the same day without an appointment.



# Health Division 2022 overview — continued

The STHC Laboratory also processes specimens daily from other tribal health centers. The STHC laboratory uses state-of-the-art equipment and technology to provide quality and accurate results to the physicians. The STHC Laboratory performed 221,715 tests and processed 11,760 send-out tests. Tests not performed at STHC are sent to other reference laboratories, such as Upper Peninsula Health System, LabCorp, MyMichigan Sault and Mayo Clinic.

In Medical Records, there were 11,712 referrals generated throughout the division. Medical records from each site collectively processed 5,425 release of information requests and scanned 250,787 pages into patients' electronic health records.

The Fitness Club, at the Big Bear Arena, has upgraded some of its equipment and extended its hours of operation. The Fitness Club welcomes new and existing customers to enjoy its facilities and services.

## Community Health Education

Community Health Education Program provides health education programming, services and activities to community and tribal members throughout the Sault Tribe's seven county service area. The Physical Activity Referral Program provides medical fitness prescription to patients with serious medical conditions referred to the program by Sault Tribe medical providers.

The GHWIC 1903 award, funded by the CDC, supports Health Education's work with local groups in the Sault Tribe area to make the land more suitable for walking and linking places with paths. Examples are the cooperation between Health Education and the Alger County Wellness Coalition to put Ojibwe names on Munising Bay Trail Network signage and the partnership between Health Education and Kinross Building Healthier Community Coalition to hold the 2nd Annual Kinross 5K Color event to encourage people to be active by walking, jogging, hiking and snowshoeing. The Sault Building Healthy Communities Coalition also organized a scavenger hunt for National Trails Day.

There is also the Nicotine Dependence program (NDP) that provides tobacco education and cessation services throughout the seven-county service area.

Community Health Education partnered with MSU Extension FRTEP to offer Sault Tribe members free seeds. Recipients were able to choose which seeds they were interested in receiving out of a wide variety of seed kits, including a three sisters kit (corn, beans, squash), a pizza kit (tomatoes, peppers, basil, onion), a salsa kit (jalapenos, tomatoes, cilantro, onion), or a kids' choice kit (watermelon, pumpkin, snap peas, rainbow carrots). Approximately 290 Sault Tribe members signed up to receive seeds for themselves or their families.

Health Education also part-

nered with the Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative to host the Indigenous Food Week Challenge. The social media challenge encouraged community members to prepare a meal with traditional foods, snap a photo of the meal, and post to the Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative Facebook page.

## Community Health Nursing (Sault, St. Ignace, Hessel and De Tour)

The Community Health Program offers a wide range of services to tribal members and their families in clinic, home, and community settings. These services include patient health assessments, chronic disease education, case management, home safety assessments, medication management, prescription pick-up sites, immunizations, foot care clinics, blood draws, lab drawing stations, injections, incontinence and car seat programs, hypertension education, vision and hearing screenings, CPR instruction, COVID vaccination and testing clinics, health fairs, community event participation, diabetes prevention and education, nutrition counseling, health screenings for students, cooking classes and demonstrations, weight management, medical nutrition therapy, in-home diabetes fitness training, diabetes education classes and assist with Audiology program management.

## Dental

The Dental Program offers a comprehensive range of services to tribal members, including exams, oral cancer screenings, x-rays, cleanings, preventive dental care, periodontal care, fillings, crowns, dentures, root canals, nightguards, non-invasive pediatric care, oral surgery and emergency dental care.

## Purchased Referred Care

Purchased Referred Care (PRC) provides appropriate access for Sault Tribe members to achieve high-quality care beyond what is available through Tribal Health facilities. PRC benefits are established by federal law and regulations and funded through appropriations from the federal government. Tribes establish priorities of coverage based on funding appropriated. Members should not rely solely on PRC for their medical coverage and should apply for alternate resources if eligible. PRC is the payor of last resort. Eligibility requirements for PRC include residing within the Purchased Referred Care Delivery area, consisting of seven counties, having a completed application on file, providing proof of income and residency, and being enrolled in PRC 90 days prior to an Inpatient Stay. It is the member's responsibility to request assistance by contacting the PRC office directly. After-hours/weekend coverage is available by calling the nurse triage line in your area where your primary care provider is located.

## Pharmacy

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Pharmacy department continues to provide high quality pharmacy services to the patients we serve, reviewing and process-

ing over 167,000 prescriptions in 2022. Pharmacy services are provided in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Manistique where tribal pharmacies are located as well as in Munising. Tribal pharmacists have also been very involved with the Health Division's Tobacco Cessation and Controlled Substance Committees.

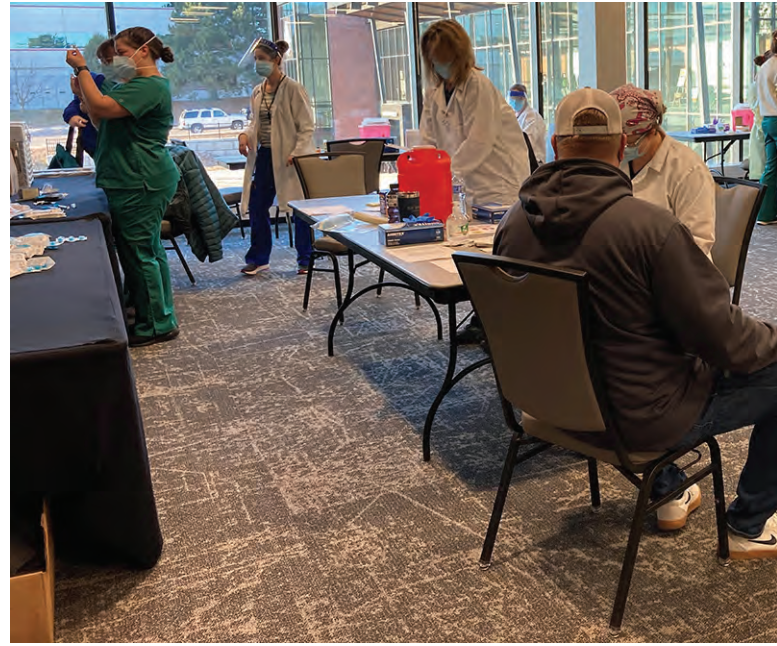
## Traditional Medicine

In 2022, the Traditional Medicine Program had three new hires and held many in-services throughout the year, including fire teachings, name and clan teachings, fasting teachings, and self-care teachings. These teachings were held throughout the 7-county service area and were attended by tribal members from all over. Over 2,400 people received services.

Gerard Sagassige offered various teachings and ceremonies, including an online teaching for spirit thunderbird egg teachings, DV men's circle, Wellbriety meetings, smudging, sendoff ceremonies for tribal elder's funerals, Seven Grandfather's teaching, end-of-life ceremony, men's sweat lodge, co-ed sweat lodge, pipe ceremony for a wake and home visits.

Traditional Medicine hosted a Welcoming Feast for George Goggeye and Gerard Sagassige on Nov. 16 with 15 volunteers and 100 attendees. George Goggeye performed a ceremony similar to shake tent for tribal members needing help with healing on Nov. 11. On Dec. 6, the Traditional Medicine team attended the Tribal State Summit with Governor Whitmer, where Gerard Sagassige and Lori Gambardella did the opening ceremony, prayer and smudge.

The Sault Tribe Health Division is proud of its accomplishments in 2022 and looks forward to continuing its mission of promoting health and wellness for Tribal members in 2023 and beyond.



Tribal-NMU COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the university.



Traditional Medicine staff makes medicine at Niigaanigiizhk Building.



Nutrition Cooking Class at Big Bear Arena kitchen.



# Anishinaabek Community & Family Services

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services has three primary components providing an umbrella of social services to tribal members and families throughout the tribe's seven-county service area.

## Binogii/Family Services

includes several programs which improves outcomes for safety, permanency and well-being of children and families, which includes Adult Protective Services.

- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Foster and Adoptive Home Licensing
- Prevention
- Adolescent In Home Assistance (AIHA)
- Protective Services
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Monitoring
- Family Continuity
- In-Home Care
- Parenting

## The Advocacy Resource Center

provides comprehensive, culturally honoring and trauma-informed responses to those impacted by the abuse of power and control.

- Core Advocacy
- Safety Planning
- Financial Assistance/Supportive Housing
- Transportation Assistance
- Turning Points
- Emergency Legal Advocacy/Personal Protection Order Assistance
- Criminal Justice Advocacy
- Crime Victim Compensation Assistance
- Outreach and Community Education Services
- Sexual Violence Services (SVS) *Naanda Nswi Kidwenan*
- Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter *Aakdehewin Gaamig* (Lodge of Bravery)
- Legal Aid for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

## Direct Services

provides assistance to tribal members experiencing financial and other difficulties.

- Emergency Assistance
- General Assistance
- Native Employment Works
- Child Care Development Fund
- Funeral Assistance
- Employee Assistance
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Elder Heating
- Emergency Housing Assistance

## United States Department of Agriculture Food Distribution Program in Indian Reservations (USDA) Food Commodities

ACFS has approximately 59 team members working within the three components under the ACFS umbrella of services. The staff are committed to providing the best possible social services to members.

ACFS continues to manage 40-plus grants, with funding from Sault Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Services (IHS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state of Michigan. The grants are utilized to provide the most efficient services within three primary



**New child-parent visitation center for families whose children have been removed from their care and placed in foster care.**



**Child abuse awareness drive thru event included bikes for giveaway.**



**2022 Domestic Violence Walk.**



**ARC staff traveled to Grand Rapids for MMIW Day.**

components. ACFS has offices located in Sault Ste. Marie, Kincheloe, St. Ignace, Manistique and Munising.

## 2022 Division Highlights

ACFS was charged with the programming and operation of the newly purchased Plaza Motel in Sault Ste. Marie, which will be the tribe's Transformational Emergency Homeless Shelter. The facility is a 21-room facility that will provide homeless members throughout the seven-county service area with emergency shelter. The shelter will also provide intensive services to members who wish to work on barriers to obtaining housing. The facility will be a 24/7 operation with a full staff. ACFS currently serves numerous homeless members by providing assistance for local motels to provide shelter.

ACFS received technical assistance from Bieux Simone Consulting, which was graciously arranged and provided by Joni Talantino, Sault Tribe Housing Authority. There were several staff and departments involved in the planning phase of the shelter operations, to include: Larry Jaques, Annie Thibert, Teri Romano, Mariea Mongene, Megan Miller, Safety, Facilities, MIS Security and Telecommunications.

An anticipated open date is mid to late July 2023.

In the spring of 2022, ACFS expanded its main office using the space of the recently vacated Child Care Center. ARPA funding was used to renovate the space to provide much needed office space for the staff. ACFS moved the staff from the Dawn M. Eavou Child Advocacy Center to the main office, allowing a smoother service delivery to the members by having several programs in one space.

With the expansion, ACFS renovated one of the classrooms into a child-parent visitation center for families whose children have been removed from their care and placed in foster care. The center has an on-site playground as well as a full kitchen that gives the parents the ability to cook a meal during visitation with their children. We have dedicated the visitation center to Dawn. M Eavou in honor of her memory.

The expansion also allowed ACFS to designate private space for members to use a computer. The office has a computer, printer and phone. The staff are available to assist as needed with completing applications, scanning documents or making copies.

ACFS also started a winter wear closet in 2022 available for members needing warm clothing to come in and get winter gear. They also had hats, scarves and mittens donated by community members. The items were donated by ACFS staff and are either new or gently used.

## Family Services/Binogii

Child Placement Program Director Melissa VanLuven, prepared and presented a white paper for Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes on GAP Legislation Impact on Tribal Children for a visit with Governor Whitmer.

The staff continued to represent Sault Tribe's interests and

served as advocates for tribal children and families involved in the child welfare system by actively participating in cases and workgroups and providing written and verbal recommendations to tribal, county, state and federal partners on a variety of levels. This advocacy has resulted in ongoing policy, practice, funding and expected legislative changes that improve outcomes and access to resources for tribal children and families.

Program staff continued to raise awareness and advocate for tribal legal rights and sovereignty by working to ensure the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) protections are in place

The team continued as representatives on the MDHHS Tribal State Partnership group and the Michigan Tribal Social Services Director's group.

Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency continued to be the only tribal state-licensed child placing agency in the state of Michigan. The agency has been in existence for over 39 years. Through the Binogii Placement Agency license and MDHHS contracts, tribal staff conduct primary foster care case management, licensing and adoption services for tribal children and families within the tribe's seven-county service area. This allows the tribe to ensure that children are kept within the community and placed within the tribe's priority of placement. During 2022, the agency completed a successful renewal inspection.

## Family Services/Binogii 2022 Statistics

Child Welfare provided services to 3016 children/families for 2022 as follows:

- Family Services Cases - 333
- Relative, Licensing, and Adoption Home Studies - 131
- Foster Children - 77
- Indian Child Welfare Act Monitoring Cases - 548
- Legal Intervention Cases: Adoption Cases - 16
- Children and Adult Protective Services Cases - 198
- Indian Child Welfare Act Inquiries - 1, 311

## Advocacy Resource Center Highlights

The ARC's Sexual Violence Services (SVS) Program: *Naanda Nswi Kidwenan* "Those Three Words" is an extension of the Advocacy Resource Center and is vital in serving those impacted by sexual violence. This SVS Program is designed to provide unique services to victims of sexual violence that emphasize both culture and tradition in the healing and advocacy process. One of the main functions of the SVS Program is to coordinate services for victims of sexual violence, which includes offering various tools intended to empower victims in their journey to healing. At present, any victim impacted by sexual violence has access to the SVS Program's free, confidential and voluntary services.

Soon, the SVS Program's Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE) medical room will be fully functioning to provide victims of sexual violence with medical examinations



# ACFS Division 2022 highlights — continued

in a community-based facility. The intent is to afford victims of sexual violence the option to receive SANE examinations in a more holistic and honoring environment where medical responses are provided in a culturally honoring way.

The SVS Program also implemented cultural healing activities intended to provide victims of sexual violence access to culture and tradition. The SVS Program provides access to learning about the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe ways of life in addition to having traditional medicine healing kits that include the four sacred medicines. The ARC Cultural Healing Educator hosts monthly Culture is the Key to Healing events in person and on Facebook.

Ashley Gravelle was the Cultural Healing Educator in 2022, and said, "These events meant a lot to the community. Crafting brings people to a circle to talk as they craft. For me, it was never to think I knew everything but rather to get others to want to know more about their culture and show them how to find those doors to help them heal."

## ARC 2022 Statistics

ARC Casemanagers (Victim Advocates) provided 3,262 advocacy support units to 278 survivors, with 316 minor children as secondary beneficiaries.

The ARC's annual number of advocacy clients served increased 15.8% during 2022.

ARC staff provided 449 advocacy support units by delivering financial assistance to 126 survivors,

with 195 minor children as secondary beneficiaries.

\$88,546.27 in direct financial assistance was provided to survivors.

\$53,816.63 in Supportive Housing financial support was provided to 25 adult survivors, which totaled 2,262 nights of rental assistance.

ARC Legal Aid Program provided 730 advocacy support units to 49 survivors.

The ARC's Aakdehewin Gaamig- Lodge of Bravery-Emergency Temporary Domestic Violence Shelter provided 521 shelter advocacy units during the 2,977 shelter nights provided to 27 adults and 20 children.

ARC staff facilitated 174 shelter group talking circles provided

to 28 adult and child shelter residents.

ARC staff drove 19,498 miles providing transportation assistance to survivors and their children while attending local community collaborative meetings and professional development events.

The ARC fielded 175 inquiries from community members seeking assistance locating available community supportive services.

ARC staff participated in 102 community events and outreach activities, exhibited 302 educational displays reaching 1,288,605 individuals, and had a social media reach of 629,198 people.

## Direct Services Highlights

ACFS/USDA lost a long-term, 40-plus year employee in May 2022. Carman Wagner passed within months of Tony Nertoli. Everyone joked that Tony and Carmen were an at-work husband and wife team. They operated the program together for over 40 years. Their passing has been a significant loss.

ACFS was excited about the addition of Sheryl McKerchie, who hired as the FDPIR USDA Program Director in April 2022. McKerchie is a Sault Tribe member with several years of experience with various tribal programs.

Within the first year with the USDA Program, McKerchie successfully applied for a \$200,000 grant. The funding will be used for cooking, informational videos and hydroponic gardens for each client. The hydroponic gardens will be given out to clients with information on how to use the fresh herbs they grow at home.

Child Care Assistance Co-Pays continued to be waived for all CCDF parents throughout 2022 with CCDF ARPA Funding.

With CCDF ARPA funding, ACFS CCDF Program continued providing assistance to essential workers in the seven-county service area with child care assistance despite their level of income. Health care providers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, and emergency responders and others were helped. This funding was available throughout 2022.

**Direct Services 2022 Statistics**  
 CSBG Emergency Assistance - 281 Individuals  
 CCDF Child Care Assistance - 535 Families  
 Employee Assistance - 76  
 Elder Heating - 60  
 Emergency Housing - 230  
 General Assistance - 481  
 Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program - 907  
 Native Employment Works - 106  
 Funeral - 246  
 Tribal Emergency Assistance - 405  
 USDA-Commodities - 4,348  
 Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program - 129

**CONTACTS**  
**ACFS Main Office**  
 2218 Shunk Rd.,  
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
 (906) 632-5250, (800) 726-0093

**USDA**  
 3601 Mackinaw Trail  
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
 (906) 635-6076 or (888) 448-8732

**Advocacy Resource Center**  
 2769 Ashmun St.  
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
 (906) 632-1808 or (800) 726-0093

**St. Ignace Office**  
 1140 N State St.  
 St. Ignace, MI 49781  
 (906) 643-8689

**Manistique Office**  
 5698 W HWY US-2  
 Manistique, MI 49854  
 (906)341-6993 or (800) 347-7137

**Munising Office**  
 622 W Superior St.  
 Munising, MI  
 (906)387-3906



Boarding school survivors pose in front of the community-made Every Child Matters quilt.

## From Facilities, Page 11

### local clinic. MUNISING AREA BUILDINGS

**Kewadin Casino Christmas**  
 N7761 Candy Cane Lane  
 Christmas, MI 49862  
 387-5475  
 1-800-KEWADIN

**Grand Island Chippewa Center**  
 Victor Matson Sr. Community Center, 622 W. Superior Street  
 Munising, MI 49862, 387-4721  
 (800) 236-4705, Fax 387-4727  
 Administration

Board of Director's Office  
 Membership Liaison 450-7011  
 Veterans Administration Services  
 Elder Luncheon Meetings  
 Community Gathering Spaces  
 Maintenance  
 Health and Human Service Programs-Main Reception/  
 Patient Registration, Medical,  
 Traditional Medicine, Nursing,  
 Medical Records, Medical Referrals, Pharmacist, Audiology,  
 Community Health, Nutrition,  
 Health Education, Behavioral Health  
 Anishnaabek Community and Family Services 387-3906  
 \*\*After Hours Urgent Medical Care 387-4721

**White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store**  
 E7889 W. State HWY M-28  
 Christmas, MI 49862, 387-1111

**Youth Education and Activities Program - Munising**  
 Mather Middle School (Facility not owned by Sault Tribe)  
 411 Elm Street  
 Munising, MI 49862  
 387-2251 Ext. 180  
 387-2102

**Wetmore YEA Building**  
 6379 Atik Ameg Drive  
 Wetmore, MI 49895  
 387-1014

**MANISTIQUE AREA BUILDINGS**  
**Kewadin Casino Manistique**  
 5630 W US 2  
 Manistique, MI 49854  
 341-5510  
 1-800-KEWADIN

**Manistique Tribal Community Center**  
 5698W US Highway 2  
 Manistique, MI 49854  
 341-8469  
 (866) 401-0043  
 Fax 341-1321  
 Administration  
 Sault Tribe Law Enforcement-For emergencies dial 911  
 635-6065  
 341-8317

Board of Director's Office  
 Membership Liaison 341-8469  
 Veterans Administration Services  
 Elder Meals 341-9564  
 Community Gathering Spaces  
 Maintenance  
 Health and Human Service Programs- Main Reception/Patient Registration, Medical, Traditional Medicine, Nursing, Medical Records, Medical Referrals, Pharmacy, Dental, Optical, Audiology, Community Health, Nutrition, Health Education and Behavioral Health  
 Anishnaabek Community and Family Services 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137  
 \*\*After Hours Urgent Medical Care 341-8469

**Housing Authority: Escanaba, Newberry, Manistique, Wetmore, Marquette**  
 1176 North Chitoma Drive  
 Manistique, MI 49854  
 341-5145  
 (888) 353-9502  
 Maintenance-Eastern and Western End  
 (855) 205-2840

**Youth Education and Activities Program - Manistique**  
 174 Zhigag  
 Manistique, MI 49754  
 341-3362  
 450-5183

**MARQUETTE AREA BUILDINGS**  
**Marquette Tribal Community Health Center**  
 (Not owned by Sault Tribe)  
 1229 West Washington Street Suite 1  
 Marquette, Michigan 49855  
 225-1616  
 Fax 225-1633  
 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 (Closed for lunch)  
 Telemedicine Services  
 Membership Liaison 450-7011  
 Community Health Program Services- Main Reception,  
 Traditional Medicine, Nursing, Immunizations, Medication Pick-Up  
 Anishnaabek Community and Family Services: By appointment only. Call 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093  
 Veterans Administration Services  
 \*\*After Hours Urgent Medical Care. Contact the Tribal Health Clinic that provides your primary medical care for nursing triage to local clinics.

**Sawyer Village**  
 250 Voodoo Avenue  
 Gwinn, MI 49841  
 346-3919

**Harvey Properties**  
 2250 US 41 South  
 Marquette, MI 49855  
 249-4223  
 346-3919

**Escanaba Area Buildings Youth Education Activities -**  
 Escanaba Area  
 1226 Wigob  
 Escanaba, MI 49829  
 789-0972

**GLADSTONE AREA BUILDINGS**  
**Gladstone Tribal Community Health Center**  
 2002 Minneapolis Avenue  
 Gladstone, MI 49837  
 341-1836  
 Fax 786-0944  
 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 (Closed for lunch)  
 Telemedicine Services  
 Membership Liaison- 450-7011  
 Community Health Program Services-Main Reception,  
 Traditional Medicine, Nursing,  
 Telemedicine Clinics,  
 Health Education, Nutrition,  
 Immunization Clinics, Medication Pick-Up  
 Anishnaabek Community and Family Services: By appointment only. Call 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093  
 Veterans Administration Services  
 \*\* After Hours Urgent Medical Care. Contact the Tribal Health Clinic that provides your primary medical care for nursing triage to local clinic.

**GAS STATIONS**  
 The following gas stations are offering the discount to Sault Tribe members.  
 Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:  
**Midjim Convenience Store**  
 2205 Shunk Road  
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

**Midjim Convenience Store**  
 3045 Mackinac Trail  
 St. Ignace, MI 49781

**Tribal owned gas stations offering gas discount only:**  
**White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store**  
 7889 E. W. M-28  
 Christmas, MI 49862

**University BP**  
 301 W. Fair Ave.  
 Marquette, MI 49855

**Not Tribal owned stations offering gas discount only:**  
**Kinross BP**  
 4440 Tone Road  
 Kincheloe, MI 49788

**Cedar Pantry**  
 159 W M-134  
 Cedarville, MI 49719

**Sunoco**  
 13975 M-28  
 Newberry, MI 49868

**Manistique Oil Company**  
 216 Deer Street  
 Manistique, MI 49854

**Carnes Eco Fuels**  
 2300 Ludington Street  
 Escanaba, MI 49837



# Sault Tribe Housing Authority 2022 in review

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority's mission is to "Improve the quality of life for tribal members through affordable and unique housing opportunities." Its vision is to "Create and sustain housing programs that promote improved quality of life, economic self-sufficiency and future growth for members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians."

## 2022 Highlights

### IHBG Competitive Grant:

This project will increase the overall STHA current housing stock by nearly 10% and will increase the housing opportunities at the site by 55%. The elder four-plex housing unit was completed and occupied in the first quarter of 2022. This 4-unit, 2-bedroom quad is elderly designated units that are 100% ADA/handicap accessible. The Force Account Crew constructed seven 2-bedroom units and two 3-bedroom units that will be completed in the first quarter of 2023. Slab foundations for four stick built 2-bedroom units were constructed, insulated and secured for the winter and construction will continue in spring of 2023.

### Emergency Rental Assistance Program:

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program was supported by the U.S. Department of Treasury. It aided Sault Tribe members and households who were renting homes anywhere in the United States. This program ended Dec. 31, 2022. The final count of assistance for the entirety of the program is as follows:

Rent: \$3,742,294.22 (875 recipients)

Rent Arrears: \$1,325,286.71 (713 recipients)

Utilities: \$646,865.46 (690 recipients)

Utility Arrears: \$555,979.20 (658 recipients)

Other: \$470,461.60 (490 recipients)

Administration: \$ 402,423.37

**Total: \$7,143,310.56**

### Home Ownership Assistance Fund:

The Housing Authority was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide financial assistance to eligible tribal member homeowners who experienced financial hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic. The assistance is intended to prevent homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after Jan. 21, 2020. Funding for this program is available until Sept. 30, 2025. This program opened on Feb. 28, 2023. Please call Housing Authority with any questions.

### Emergency Utility Subsidy Program:

This activity funded an emergency utility subsidy program. The assistance was structured to provide a one-time payment of \$500 financial assistance for water/sanitation service; payments were made directly to utility companies. Approximately 825 tribal members received the utility subsidy at over \$412,500 in assistance.

### Homeownership Department:

The Housing Authority Home Improvement Assistance programs are man-



Sault Tribe Housing Authority staff.

aged by the Assistant Housing Director. Home Improvement assistance includes the Weatherization Program (WX), Owner Occupied Rehab (OOR), Home Rehabilitation Program (HRP), Home Improvement Program (HIP) and Sanitation services for tribal members residing in the seven-county service areas.

### Down Payment Assistance:

The Homeownership department provided education in basic financial skills, credit report knowledge and post purchase education. The Down Payment Assistance (DPA) selected 13 recipients in 2022 to receive \$9,500 or 20% of the purchase price for down payment and/or closing costs. Eight (8) recipients completed and closed on their new homes in 2022.

### Home Rehabilitation Services:

The Housing Authority has designed the Home Rehab program, Furnace and Water Heater Replacement program, Weatherization program, and Sanitation Program to assist eligible tribal members/families who are living in homes that are substandard, lacking energy efficiency, and unsafe/unsanitary. These programs provide funding to homeowners who lack the financial resources to secure other funding to repair their home.

### The Weatherization Program

helped with 4 homeowner tribal families with various types of services. Two (2) were completed; this included one (1) roof replacements and one (1) window replacement. Each eligible member selected could receive up to \$7,500.00; eligible applicants may receive assistance no more than every 5 years.

### The Furnace and Water Heater Replacement program

assisted 16 tribal homeowner families with up to \$6,500 in

funding for the replacement of a furnace and/or water heater. Eight (8) home owners received hot water heaters and fourteen (14) home owners received new furnaces.

**The Sanitation Services program** assisted 40 Sault Tribe members, living in the seven county service areas, with individual water and sewer services. Each eligible member selected could receive up to \$41,500.00; this program is a once in a lifetime service.

**Community Events:** Housing staff participated in six (6) off site events; SAIL Disability Networking, Child Abuse Prevention Drive, Earth Day 2022, Sexual Assault Awareness, Community Resource Fair, and Recovery Walk.

The Housing Authority provided financial support for thirteen (13) tribal resident and community events as follows: Wellbriety Meetings, Child Abuse Prevention, Snow Snake Track, Snowshoe Rentals, Flag Removal Ceremony, Veteran Powwow, New Year's Eve Powwow, Hessel Powwow, Missing Children's Ceremony, Cyber Safety, Drum Social Celebration, MSU/NA Out Reach Program, and Hessel Halloween Party.

The Housing Authority provides financial support for the Mary Murray Culture Camp. Forty-eight (48) in person culture events were held including Winter Ceremony, Sugar Bush, Flute Workshop, Women's Gathering, Corn Drying/Making Hominy Corn Camp, Veteran's Memorial Ceremony, and Moccasin-making Workshop just to name a few. There was a total of 263 attendees. Financial assistance was provided for three additional ceremonies. These include Spring Fasting and Release, Fall Fasting and Release,

and AmeriCorps Volunteers for Housing.

**Operations and Maintenance:** The Housing Authority provides residents with a 24-hour maintenance phone line. The Operations department provides daily management of routine and non-routine/emergency maintenance of all 535 Housing Authority units. The following statistics were completed for 2022:

—4,430 Routine and Non-Routine work orders.

—142 Emergency work orders.

—23 units on the Hessel housing site power washed.

—56 units received moisture remediation services.

—23 Elder handicap adjustments.

—14 bathroom renovations.

—104 energy efficiency upgrades that consisted of windows, doors, furnaces and appliances.

—All playgrounds inspected and repairs made if needed.

—50 low rent units vacated and received maintenance that brought them back into housing standards

—One homeownership unit vacated and received maintenance that brought it back into standard housing condition

—Two driveways were repaired and lowered raised curb-stop boxes that were protruding above the driveways in Sault Ste. Marie housing site.

—One sewer lateral replaced on Kincheloe unit

—Two water service lines repaired on Kincheloe site

### Resident Services Department:

The Housing Authority management team and staff worked diligently to achieve the following:

1. The Resident Services

Department assisted all 527 housing units and processed applications for 302 for tribal low rent units and five homeownership applications.

2. Completed 48 move-ins and conducted 2,053 home visits with rental and homeownership residents on all nine housing sites.

3. Completed 386 interim and annual recertification's for low rent units and 178 interim and annual recertification's for homeownership units

4. Selected and moved 48 families into housing units.

5. Processed 101 Rental Assistance Voucher Program applications.

All nine Housing sites hosted a **back-to-school event** for children. Some sites set up on location and passed out school supplies, snacks, and school safety information while others dropped off the items to homes that have school aged children. This is an event that Housing looks forward to every year in anticipation of the new school year.

In an effort to raise public health and safety awareness, the Housing Authority presents **Health and Safety Fairs** on all nine housing sites. Resource agencies from around the areas are invited to promote local assistance and resources to all participants.

**Mini-Site Cleanups** across all nine housing sites. These events are focused on working together within the community to make our neighborhoods a clean and safe place for our children to grow. These community events help teach children the importance and responsibilities of taking care of mother earth. Housing provides gloves, garbage bags, and rakes. All participants receive a goody bag for their hard work.



# Sault Tribe Housing Division report continued

**Halloween Safety events** were held at St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie, Newberry, Kincheloe, Escanaba and Manistique. A combined total of 164 tribal members attended! Treat bags, games, “Stranger Danger” awareness and crafts were enjoyed and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement talked about Halloween safety!

The Housing Authority has established cooperation agreements with many of the local cities and townships that have housing sites. Each year payments are made to the local municipality for emergency, fire and police services, road maintenance and snow removal.

### 2022 Full Staff Day

The Housing Authority held its annual training and team building

day on Nov. 10, 2022. It was held at the Sault Casino Whitefish Point Room. Once a year all Housing staff participate in a full day of completing required annual training and team building activities. This year cultural awareness training was requested from staff and Cultural Training Specialist Debra Pine provided a great discussion that was well received from Housing staff.

### 2023 Goals

The Housing Authority is excited to share 2023 goals: Launch a Housing Authority website with online submission for all of our service programs. This website will be full of community resources, community events, Housing events, and Housing will also be accepting

online payments!  
Update the Micro Main prop-



erty management software to the new cloud-based version.

Update the HDS tenant accounting software to the new cloud-based version.

Facilitate membership housing needs community meetings — these have not been done in few years due to the pandemic. Both the Sault Tribe Board of Directors and Housing Commission will be invited.

Resident Services team members will resume a regular schedule of home visits with residents and community events.

Continue to seek economic development opportunities for the Housing Authority.

Feasibility study for solar panels on Housing homes.

The IHBG Competitive Grant

project will place eight units at the Odenaang housing site. Three of the units will be 3-bedroom stick-built units, four of the units will be 2-bedroom stick-built ADA compliant units and one unit will be a two-bedroom stick-built home.

Accept applications for the Treasury-funded Homeownership Assistance Fund. Financial assistance will be provided to those eligible tribal members with delinquent mortgage payments, utilities, property taxes, property insurance and mortgage payment assistance.

Hire a consultant to assist developing a long-term strategic and business plan for the Housing Authority.

# Sault Tribe governmental team member activities

Sault Tribe governmental employees participate in a number of team building and charitable activities. For example, many employees participate in Dress Down by donating to a Emergency Dress Down Fund for employees and tribal members and dressing down on designated

days. In 2022, 97 tribal members and employees were helped.

The ACFS Advocacy Resource Center recently started Denim Days for the month of April, a competition created to protest the common misconception that clothing styles contribute to sexual violence. Competing offices

wore denim and teal (the color for sexual assault month in April), took a group photo, and sent it in to ARC.

The tribal government also gives back to employees each year. Sault Tribe sponsors the Employee Recognition Luncheon every spring. Team members with

5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and even 35 years of employment are treated to lunch, gifts for their level of employment, and a raise. The event is organized by employee volunteers.

In the fall, governmental staff throughout the service area get together for a team member pic-

nic to relax and chat, eat together and play games. The picnic gives team members in each department a chance to get to meet the face that goes with that email or phone call, building new working relationships and friendships.

Below are a few examples of activities in 2022.



35-year employees Chris Homminga and Tel Fox at the 2022 luncheon.



Manistique Health Center staff dress for Denim Days.



St. Ignace Pharmacy's Denim Days



Members of the tribe's executive and administrative staff, along with division directors, pose for a group Denim Days photo in support of sexual assault awareness.



Sault Ste. Marie and Kinross area team members get together at Sherman Park in the Sault for an employee picnic team building event in September 2022.



# Sault Tribe Education Division 2022 highlights

## Early Childhood Programs Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Center

In 2022, Sault Tribe Early Childhood Programs served a total of 127 children, including 81 preschoolers from 77 families and 46 infants and toddlers from 41 families. Head Start provides 40 part-day, part-year slots in Sault Ste. Marie, 20 full-day, full-year slots through its Child Care Center Partnership and 20 extended duration slots in St. Ignace.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are federally funded through the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start and American Indian and Alaskan Natives Program Branch with a tribal match grant.

The Child Care Center provided full-day, full-year services for 48 children and 43 families in Sault Ste. Marie. The Child Care Center partners with Head Start and Early Head Start providing before and after care services to children enrolled in the partnership. The Child Care Center is funded through the tribe and receives funding through ACFS Childcare Development Fund grant, Head Start, Early Head Start and parent fees.

The Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Education Center is located in Sault Ste. Marie and houses Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care under one roof and is attached to the existing Big Bear Arena. The center has seven infant/toddler classrooms and four preschool classrooms, with the ability to enroll up to 134 children making it the largest child care center in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Contact: Shondra Gervais, Early Childhood Programs Manager, (906) 635-7722

## Youth Education & Activities

YEA's mission is to build strong confident Anishinaabe youth with a solid educational foundation with values grounded in tradition by providing a balance of academic and cultural teachings. YEA consists of three components — academic, cultural and leadership. Priority is given to enrolled members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians attending classes full-time in grades Head Start - 12th grade. Some activities require that YEA opens eligibility to the entire community. YEA sites are located throughout the seven-county service area, and programming is customized in each area to meet the unique needs of each community.

During 2022, YEA provided services to 12,644 students throughout the seven YEA sites. Joint activities included the Youth Empowerment Powwow held in Newberry, MSU's Native American Veteran Exploration, the Circle of Life Summer Program, and Sugar Island Culture Camp Sugar Bush. In November, YEA hosted the Youth Leadership Conference for the first time in nearly 10 years. There has been tremendous growth in both YEA's Tribal Youth Councils and Circle of Life summer programs.

YEA also provided tutoring services in classrooms, in small group settings and on a one-on-one basis. Throughout the YEA sites, students learned the Seven Grandfather Teachings, how and why to smudge with our four sacred medicines, how to make double strand chokers, snow snakes and the traditional Snow Snake game. Participants made birch bark crafts, leather

crafts, loom beading, had regalia teachings and shawl making. Students learned about sugar bush and medicine gathering, making dream catchers and tobacco pouches. The Manistique site has also started a youth drum, named Kitch-i-ti-kippi.

YEA works closely with local school districts and Title VI Indian Education Programs, the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Department, the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, tribal Law Enforcement, Sault Tribe Housing Authority, and the Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program. It is through the strength of these partnerships that YEA is able to provide youth unique learning opportunities throughout the year.

Each and every one of us are proud to be providing services to our Anishinaabe students, and we look forward to the excitement 2023 will bring for our program.

Contact: Lisa Burnside, YEA Program Manager, (906) 635-7010

## Higher Education

Sault Tribe provides post-secondary education, services and other financial support to Sault Tribe members through the Higher Education Program. These programs include post-secondary education and assistance with Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver, Scholarship Program, Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award Program, and Need-Based Grant Program.

The tribe's scholarship opportunity begins with the release of the annual application packet and scholarship essay topic. Sault Tribe students who are interested in receiving funding for the school year are required to submit a complete application packet, meet eligibility requirements, and provide required documents. Each year, this program offers a variety of competitive scholarships ranging from \$150 to \$1,000, each having their own eligibility requirements. Essays are blind scored by members of the Higher Education Committee.

The Sault Tribe offers BIA grant funding to Sault Tribe members enrolled as full-time (12 credits hours or more) undergraduate students who attend a Michigan state-supported public college. The student must be a resident of Michigan. Students are required to complete their annual FAFSA and submit to their respective post-secondary institution. The BIA grant awards students who have an unmet need as determined by their college's financial aid office. BIA grants are available for Fall and Winter semesters each year.

Self-Sufficiency incentive awards are available for FALL semester only. Students are required to submit completed applications, required documents, and grade reports prior to the deadline to receive consideration. The available funding is divided by the number of credit hours taken by all students who submit their fall grades. This is not a need-based program. The program only pays for C or better grades and will not pay for repeat courses.

In 2022, the Sault Tribe Higher Education Program provided financial/technological support to Sault Tribe members completing post-secondary education:

Scholarship Program: 23 students received scholarships

BIA Need Based Grants Program: 116 students received grants

Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award Program: 336 students received SSIA funds



Firefighters-in-training at the Early Childhood Center.

Contact: Diane McLeod-Maleport, Higher Education Specialist, (906) 635-7784.

## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

WIOA is a federally funded program designed to help Native American job seekers access employment, education and training services to assist them in obtaining and keeping productive employment. Sault Tribe has operated very similar programs throughout the years. In 2022, WIOA provided employment and training services to 116 participants. Training Services provided through WIOA include:

— On-the-Job Training (OJT) provides opportunities for both employer and adult participants by reimbursing 50 percent of the trainee's wages during a specified training period.

— Work Experience Program is short-term, temporary employment for youth, often referred to as after-school employment.

— Summer Youth Employment provides up to 10 weeks summer youth employment to eligible applicants.

— Classroom training provides short-term skills training to adults in an institutional setting to obtain a license or certificate. (nurse's aide training, CDL, heavy equipment, etc.)

— Elder Employment Program provides part-time employment to Sault Tribe elders residing in the service area who are 60 or over.

Contact Brenda Cadreau, WIOA Manager, (906) 635-4767

## Adult & Alternative Education

In collaboration with Consolidated Community School Services (CCSS), Sault Tribe members can obtain their G.E.D Certification at several sites located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula free of charge.

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, 58 percent of pupils (youth) enrolled in CCSS programs self-reported being Native American, and 50 percent of adult education participants reported the same. Of those reporting as Native American, 14

earned GED credentials, and 23 percent are expected to continue their studies this coming school year.

The 2023-24 academic year begins on Sept. 5. For information about program locations and hours of operation, please visit the CCSS Facebook page, website at [www.ccss.eupschools.org](http://www.ccss.eupschools.org) or call the main office at (906) 495-7305. Information can also be obtained by emailing Tanya Pages at [tpages@eupschools.org](mailto:tpages@eupschools.org).



2022 Youth Empowerment Powwow.



# Tribal Recreation Division overview for 2022

The Recreation Division provides recreational opportunities for tribal members in the seven-county service area and for community members in Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding area through recreation agreements and tribally owned facilities.

## Recreation Agreements

To supplement tribal facilities and programming, the Sault Tribe has established recreation agreements in the following areas at minimal or no charge to tribal members:

- Escanaba-YMCA and Sullivan's Health and Fitness
- Kinross / Kincheloe-Recreation Fitness Center
- Manistique-Yooper Fitness, High School Pool and Little Bear West Ice Arena
- Marquette-Northern Michigan University (NMU)
- Munising-Alger Parks & Recreation Center
- Negaunee-YMCA of Marquette County
- Newberry & Curtis-Helen Newberry Joy Hospital & Healthcare Center

- Sault Ste. Marie-Lake Superior State University (LSSU)
- St. Ignace-Little Bear East Arena

Most recreation agreements include full fitness centers with some facilities having swimming pool access as well as ice skating. In addition to a fitness center at LSSU, there are various athletic camps available at no charge to tribal youth as well as free tickets to LSSU hockey, basketball and volleyball games. Detailed information about recreation agreements throughout the seven-county service areas can be found on [www.bigbeararena.com](http://www.bigbeararena.com), under the Tribal Departments tab, listed under Recreation.

## Tribally Operated Facilities

The Sault Tribe owns and operates the Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie. This 150,000-square-foot facility features two ice surfaces, a 6,000-square-foot fitness center, a small and large gymnasium, aerobic room, meeting rooms, dance room, indoor track, playground, nature trail and concessions.

The facility is home of the Sault High Blue Devils Hockey Club, Soo Michigan Hockey Association, Superior Storm Volleyball Club, International Volleyball League and Sault Women's Volleyball League. The gymnasiums and rinks also serve as a training center for the Soo Eagles Hockey Club, Lake Superior State Lakers and the Soo Indians AAA Midgets Hockey Club.

## Purpose Statement

The Recreation Division is dedicated to promoting wellness, athletic excellence, high principles and values and to creating bonds of mutual respect between individuals and communities.

## Division Departments

The Events Management department develops and coordinates facility events and activities for tribal and community families as well as coordinate customer ice and space rentals. The department works closely with tribal and community programs to collaborate on programming.

## The Youth Program

Department develops and coordinates the Summer Recreation



USA Olympian Abby Roque hosted a hockey camp at the Big Bear upon her return to Sault Ste. Marie in May of 2022. Above, Jillian Newhouse, Taryn Pratt and Abby Roque (L-R); front row is Tia Gordon.

Program for tribal and community youth, age 5-10 years old. The program is recreation-based and includes sports, arts and crafts, organized games, field trips, water fun days, nutritional programming and much more.

The Concessions Department provides over-the-counter food and beverage services for activities and events held at the facility. The department also fulfills small food and beverage needs for trainings and seminars. Vending machines are also available throughout the facility.

The Pro Shop offers limited hockey accessories such as tape, laces, pucks and mouthguards. Skate sharpening is also available.

The Administration Department oversees business operations, marketing, customer service strategies as well as safety and security of personnel and customers.

The Operations Department ensures facility equipment is operational, maintaining the ice and dry floor surfaces, facility cleanliness and a safe environment.

The All-In-One Fitness Club, which is owned and operated by the Sault Tribe Health Center, is located inside the Big Bear Arena and offers free access to tribal members. The expanded fitness center includes state-of-the-art weight and cardio equipment, locker rooms, saunas, indoor walking track and fitness classes. Detailed club information can be found on [www.bigbeararena.com](http://www.bigbeararena.com), under the Fitness tab.

Additionally, the facility houses the Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Department, Education Department, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Community Health, Physical Therapy, the Language and Culture Division and is connected to the Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Center.

## Big Bear Services and Programs

- Public Skating
- Learn To Skate
- Drop-In Hockey
- Stick N Puck



- Drop-In Figure Skating
- Drop-In Basketball and Volleyball
- Summer Recreation Program
- Pickleball
- Fitness Classes
- Totzones
- Baby and Bridal Showers
- Birthday Parties
- Team Meals
- School Fun Days
- Adult Volleyball Leagues
- Adult Hockey Leagues
- Hockey Tournaments
- Hockey Leagues, Clinics and Tryouts
- Meetings and Trainings
- Special Events
- Private Ice and Space Rentals

## 2022 Accomplishments

As COVID limitations and restrictions eased throughout the year, the following recreation accomplishments were achieved within the seven-county service area:

- 80 tribal memberships to NMU in Marquette
- 2,480 tribal member visits to the YMCA in Escanaba
- 163 tribal member visits to the pool at the high school in Manistique
- 3,315 tribal member visits to the Little Bear East in St. Ignace
- 560 tribal member visits to the LSSU SAC and 67 to the LSSU pool
- Distributed 1,679 LSSU athletic tickets
- Enrolled 48 Sault Tribe youth in LSSU athletic camps
- Updated and distributed the Seven-County Wellness and Recreation Guide

Additionally, the following recreation accomplishments occurred at the Big Bear Arena:

- 11,400 tribal member visits to the All-In-One Fitness Club
- 591 participants at the Sault Tribe Community Health Drive-Thru Fair and Produce Distribution
- 174 participants at the Sault



In fall of 2022, Enterprise Vending Inc. put in a new arcade at the Big Bear Arena with change machine, card machine, redemption games, arcade games and lights.

Tribe Behavioral Health and Tribal Court Recovery Walk

- 93 participants at the Sault Tribe YEA's Drive-Thru Halloween Trunk or Treat
- 1,558 participants at the Sault Tribe Children's Christmas Party
- 197,000 pounds of food was distributed to 7,833 people at the Feeding America Mobile Food Distributions
- 2,537 patrons participated in Public Skating
- Rented 1,819 Rental Skates and 237 Skate Aids
- Rented 23 pairs of Snow Shoes
- 109 patrons participated in Stick N Puck
- 32 patrons in Drop-In Figure Skating
- 93 patrons participated in Pickleball
- 169 patrons participated in Totzones
- 213 community practices and classes were held in the courts

- Hosted two COVID-19 vaccination clinics and one test distribution
- Hosted 173 birthday parties and celebrations
- Hosted 18 meetings and trainings
- Developed the Youth Spring Hockey League to include 180 players
- Developed the Summer Recreation Program to include 69 participants
- Hosted 13 school and organization fun days
- Hosted 28 adult soccer sessions
- Hosted 32 high school hockey games
- Hosted 10 hockey tryouts, camps and clinics
- Hosted 12 college hockey games for Sault College

During 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic still had an impact on recreation planning, particularly related to events and activities that are planned one to two years in advance, specifically hockey tournaments. As a result, there were no hockey tournaments in 2022; however, 11 tournaments are booked for 2023 as restric-

tions have eased.

## 2023 Goals

- Collaborate with Education, YEA, Community Health, Fitness Center and the Language and Cultural departments to develop new events and activities for the community.
- Collaborate with Sault Tribe Transportation Department and other agencies to implement way finding signs throughout the city and upgrade current parking lot signage.
- Collaborate with the Training Department to institute e-learning and training videos.
- Explore new ice activities including bumper cars, ice bikes and rideable skate aids including associated grant funding opportunities.
- Collaborate with the MIS Department to implement an app for smart phones for use in communicating with customers and promoting the Recreation Division.
- Continue to promote recreation events and activities on social media platforms.
- Secure additional long-term advertising contracts, including new locations throughout the facility.
- Update 5-Year Maintenance Plan and work with Facilities Management on building projects.
- Research and implement a hockey vending machine for the lobby to facilitate downsizing of Pro Shop.
- Implement digital locker room assignments and concessions menus.
- Create online LSSU athletic ticket applications.
- Install new synthetic flooring in the gymnasiums.
- Install safety padding along the walls of the Bear Court.
- Continue to perform routine maintenance through facility and renovate as necessary.

## Contact Information

Big Bear Arena  
Two Ice Circle  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 635-RINK  
800-588-RINK  
[bookthebear@saulttribe.net](mailto:bookthebear@saulttribe.net)  
[www.bigbeararena.com](http://www.bigbeararena.com)



# EDC and Enterprise 2022 Annual Report

Economic development plays a pivotal role in the growth and empowerment of Sault Tribe businesses and tribal member owned businesses. The Sault Tribe operates a diverse portfolio of non-gaming businesses referred to as enterprises. In 2022 the non-gaming enterprises generated a combined revenue of over \$20 million according to the consolidated financials prepared by the Sault Tribe Budget Department.

## Commercial Enterprises

The Midjim Convenience Store serves as an important community hub on the reservation lands in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace, Mich. It's not just a place to buy food, gas, and basic supplies — it also serves a social function, providing a place for the community to meet and interact. Beyond these important roles, Midjim is a vital part of the tribal economy. The convenience store helps the tribe's economy by utilizing the tribe's tax-exempt status on certain items like gasoline and cigarettes, providing these goods at a discount for tribal members. The value of these discounts totaled \$1,029,846, which directly benefits the tribal members.

Another enterprise under the same umbrella is Gitchi Home and Auto, established in 2018. This Class-A vehicle license facility specializes in Manufactured HUD single and double wide, modular homes, used vehicles, Genuine motor scooters, and Amish-built sheds. Gitchi has successfully provided Sault Tribe Housing with Fairmont, and now Champion, built homes. Gitchi Enterprise in 2022 provided 13 homes, 11 sheds, 14 golf carts, and two lawn mowers to tribal entities. During 2022, Gitchi produced 105 total sales.

In July 2019, the EDC Enterprises expanded its portfolio by acquiring the White Pine Lodge and C-Store. Located in Christmas, Mich., this property is a popular accommodation choice for visitors, operating 24/7 year-round. It provides high-quality accommodation with a range of room options, including double-queen rooms and king-size suites. Complimentary breakfast and free Wi-Fi add value to the guest's stay. The occupancy is usually high in winter and summer months, with nightly rates ranging from \$180 to \$200.

Attached to the lodge is a convenience store that extends the same amenities and fuel discounts as the Midjim Convenience Store, further adding value for the tribal members. Recent upgrades include new fuel pumps, payment terminals, and software that allow tribal members to use their tribal cards and credit cards at the pump. A total of \$28,508 was saved by tribal members through these discounts.

Sault Tribe began operating two new enterprises in 2022, Tanglewood Marsh golf course and Hessel Ridge/Bear on the Mountain golf course. Tanglewood Marsh stretches across 145 acres of natural wooded setting. This golf course plays 5,600 yards from the tips.

Tanglewood Marsh golf course



**Tribal Elder John Causley prepares to take the first swing on Hole #1 at the "Hessel Ridge "Gchi Wajiwaw Makwa" (Bear on the Mountain) Golf Course marking the official re-opening of facility since it was purchased by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in 2022.**

is home to not only golfers but all acts of wildlife. During the months of operations, fall is a very popular time to play golf. You can experience the changes in the trees and enjoy the opportunity to walk the golf course. Tanglewood Marsh golf course is known to play relatively tight, while also challenging every type of golfer. We offer a casual bar and restaurant with outdoor seating available. The golf course is best described as a fun, relaxed, 18 hole golf course in Soo, Michigan. While formally known as Hessel Ridge, Bear on the Mountain (Gchi Wajiwaw Makwa) took over the stunning hidden gem in the Eastern UP. During the transition of purchase, the tribe purchased 20 new EZGO golf carts. Respectively known as the best golf course in the area, the property offers a unique opportunity to challenge your golf game while taking in the stunning scenery. Stretching across 155 acres, the golf course plays 6,600 yards from the tips. Bear on the Mountain is considered the area's best hidden secret.

Together, these establishments play an essential role in strengthening the tribal economy and community, reflecting the dynamic entrepreneurship and dedication to continuous improvement of the Economic Development Corporation.

## Real Estate/Property Management

The Sault Tribe has acquired a wealth of expertise and established a competitive edge in property management. We are open to exploring any development opportunities in this sector, provided they meet the appropriate Capitalization Rate (CAP rate) standards set by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.

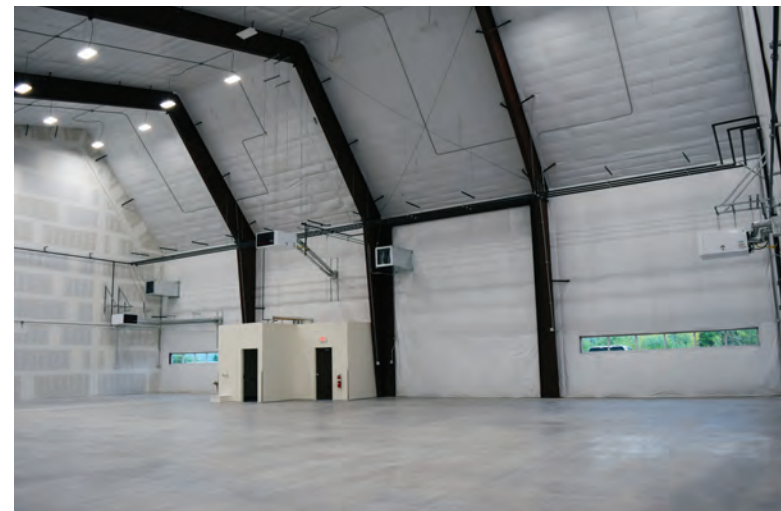
DeMawating Development, situated in Kincheloe, and Sawyer Village, situated in Gwinn, possess a distinguished and well-recognized standing within both the tribal and local communities. These establishments provide cost-effective housing and storage solutions, catering to tribal members and the neighboring commu-

nity alike. Notably, both locations have proven to be highly advantageous investments for the Sault Tribe. The Real Estate/Property Management Sector of the tribe currently employs a dedicated team of 12 members.

Sawyer Village, in FY 2022, displayed a comprehensive portfolio, comprising 468 units in total. Among these, 222 units were dedicated to residential purposes, and 213 of them were already occupied, resulting in an impressive occupancy rate of 96%. The residential offerings encompass a variety of housing options, including 3- and 4-bedroom apartments, duplexes, and single-family homes. For those seeking rentals, the price range per month spans from \$450 to \$775. In addition to the residential properties, Sawyer Village also provides a selection of commercial buildings available for rent, along with hangars for storage. Furthermore, the village boasts 185 indoor/outdoor storage units. For more information, visit their official website at [www.SawyerVillage.com](http://www.SawyerVillage.com).

DeMawating Development, in FY 2022 showcased a diverse portfolio consisting of 305 units, out of which 206 were designated for residential purposes and open for renting. Impressively, 201 of these residential units were occupied, resulting in an outstanding 98% occupancy rate of traditional units, 88% for Riverside Village Park units, and 98% for commercial units. The residential offerings feature 3- and 4-bedroom duplexes and single-family homes, with monthly rental prices ranging from \$450 to \$650.

Furthermore, in a strategic move to expand their facility offerings, DeMawating Development constructed a state-of-the-art Industrial Suite, Crane Industrial Suites, at Odenaang, which added three large industrial suites to their inventory, with one unit being leased immediately. As of 2022, DeMawating offered 67 storage units for rent, boasting an average occupancy rate of 96%. The storage options include 10x10 and 10x20 units, with rental prices ranging from \$65 to \$90



**DeMawating Development constructed a state-of-the-art Industrial Suite, Crane Industrial Suites, at Odenaang.**



**Crane Industrial Suites added three large industrial suites to DeMawating's inventory.**

permonth.

To further cater to the community's needs, DeMawating Development is actively developing the Sault Tribe billboards. We have 14 billboards operating on tribal land. For more information on their offerings and progress, visit their official website at [www.DemawatingDevelopment.com](http://www.DemawatingDevelopment.com).

## Business Development

Sault Tribe Thrive (STT): In September 2019, the EDC was awarded a Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) grant for \$485,000 to create STT; the grant was awarded once again in 2021 for two additional years. The objectives for this effort are: outreach, advocacy, and promote Sault Tribe member owned businesses (MBEs). We are pleased to report that during 2022, 155-plus MBEs were served across the service region and the US.

STT has provided over 627 hours of consultation and support services. Through this effort, four startups have been formed, 43 jobs created or retained and five contracts awarded.

STT also maintains a directory of MBEs and success stories. The web page had 12,795 views and 4,255 visitors while the STT Facebook page reached 11,302. More information on STT can be found on its website <https://saulttribethrive.com>.

## Looking Forward

Current Projects 2022 into 2023:

- Complete MEDC-Tamarack II renovation
- Complete EDA Land use grant activity
- New surveillance system at both Sault and St. Ignace Midjims
- Complete construction of new Gitchi Home and Auto