



Inwewin

“Our Voice” Newspaper

FREE!

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Tribe Votes to Amend Constitution

On Jan. 14, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Members will go to the polls to decide whether to amend Article VIII of the Tribe's Constitution.

Currently, the Tribe is required by federal regulations to hold a Secretarial Election for any amendments to the Constitution. The current process to amend the Constitution is a lengthy one, with no guarantee that if an amendment is approved by the Membership, the Secretary of Interior will approve the determination of the People.

The proposed amendment would eliminate federal oversight of any further constitutional amendments, and would bring the election process home to the Membership. Richard Jack, Constitution Committee Chairman, feels that should the amendment pass, it would open the doors for Constitutional change that would better the lives of Members and Descendants. “This is probably the most important vote in our Tribe's history. If you look at what is happening in White Earth, you can see that Indian People are longing to change their future,” said Jack, referring to the recent vote by the White Earth Band of Chippewa to amend their Constitution.

The Jan. 14 vote comes after years of community discussions regarding reforming the Constitution to better meet the needs of the Tribal Membership. The current language in the Constitution states: “The Tribal Council, by a vote of eight members, shall consider an amendment necessary. Such amendment shall be sent to the Secretary of the Interior. It shall then be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to call an election. If at such election, the amendment is adopted by a majority vote of the adult members of the Tribe, residing on the reservation at least one year prior to the date of the election, voting thereon in an election in which at least 30% of those entitled to vote shall vote, such amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior and if approved by him shall thereupon become effective.”

In contrast, the proposed changes to Article VIII would remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Secretary of Interior from the entire amendment process. It would also change the number of Council Member votes needed to call for an amendment election from eight to nine. Instead of holding a Secretarial Election, the Tribe would hold a Tribal Constitutional Election for the Membership to vote on any proposed amendments.

Tribal Constitutional Elections would be overseen by the Tribe's Election Board, which is comprised of 10 Board Members. The Election Board would call elections in response to a resolution from the Tribal Council. There is also a provision in the proposed amendment that would allow the Tribal Membership to petition for a Tribal Constitutional Election to amend the Constitution, without the need for action from the Tribal Council.

Any Constitutional Amendment Election would require a public mailing to all eligible voters providing the constitutional language currently in effect, the proposed amendments to such language, and the reasoning behind the recommended constitutional amendment. The Election Board would also be required to hold at least three public forums. The revisions would allow any enrolled Tribal Member to vote on constitutional amendments, regardless of how long they have resided on the Reservation, or for that matter where they reside at all, and require 51 percent of eligible voters to cast ballots.

Lac du Flambeau's process began many years ago when Members felt the current Constitution did not adequately address or reflect their needs. Many Tribal Members believe the current boilerplate Constitution given to the Tribe is outdated and does not reflect the needs of the People. Hearing the cries of the Membership, in 2012 the Tribal Council directed the Tribe's Constitution Committee to research the issue of constitutional reform and possible solutions and outcomes. After the directive, the Constitution Committee sought direction and guidance from legal experts in the fields of Indian Law and Constitutional Reform. The Constitution Committee and its chosen legal team of Rosette, LLP immediately went to work with the Committee to determine the best, most effi-



cient route to take to accomplish the final goal - developing a Constitution of the People, for the People, by the People.

After a year of research and case law study, conducting public educational sessions and gathering public input, the Constitution Committee presented the proposed language which would amend Article VIII to the Tribal Council for approval. The Council then submitted a request to hold the Secretarial Election to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In response to the Tribe's request, the BIA sent a technical comment letter to the Tribe, informing of the potential risks and rewards of amending Article VIII to remove the federal government from the amendment process. The Tribe took steps to address the BIA's technical comments through additional community meetings and the Tribe once again forwarded the request that a Secretarial Election be held.

A main point of concern for many Members is that by removing the Department of Interior from the amendment process, amendments could be made and used as a political tool. ***In all actuality, under the proposed amendment, the final decision on any further constitutional amendments will fall to the will of the Membership.***

In October, the Tribal Council appointed a Secretarial Election Board to oversee the election process. The creation of the Board is a requirement under the Federal Secretarial Election rules. By Federal statute, the Board is headed up by Marion K. Duffy, who was designated by the Secretary of the Department of Interior. Other Members of the Secretarial Election Board include Tribal Members Tula Christensen, Judie LaBarge, Joe Graveen, Marsha Poupart and Myra Doud.

This election is unlike a regular referendum election, and has specific requirements outlining who is eligible to vote. Eligible voters are enrolled Tribal Members who are at least 18 years of age or older and have resided on the Reservation for at least one year prior to the election date of January 14, 2014.

The BIA mailed out Election Packet Notice on Nov. 29, 2013. It was required for all eligible voters to fill out and return the Election Packet Notice to either the Secretarial Election Board Chairman in Ashland or Secretarial Election Board Member Judie LaBarge by the Dec. 19 deadline. Without returning the completed Secretarial Election Notice Packet, eligible voters will not be able to vote in the Secretarial Election to let their voice be heard regarding the proposed Article VIII amendment.

Regardless of the outcome of the Secretarial Election, this will go down as one of the most historic votes in the Lac du Flambeau Tribe's modern history. See you at the polls!

LAC DU FLAMBEAU HISTORY

Understanding our past, and reminding ourselves of our purpose, is vital to our future. We must remember the past, and the atrocities that our people faced, so that we can prevent such things from happening in the future. This month, *Inwewin* begins “Our History,” a cooperative effort with Teresa Mitchell from the George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center.

“Most people will never know the beauty of our stories – the story of our creation, our migrations and history, the ways of our language, or the beauty of our art forms, which are a reflection of the Ojibwe way of being,” printed from *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions* by Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri.

We hope you will enjoy this monthly step back in time.

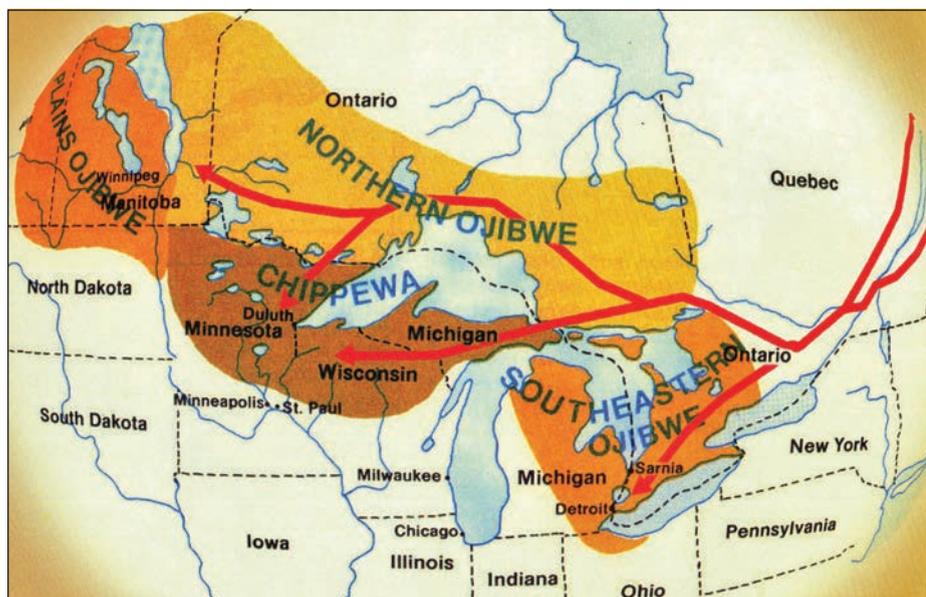
“The Ojibwa is one of the largest tribes of the United States and it is scattered over a considerable area, from the Province of Ontario, on the east, to the Red River of the North, on the west, and from Manitoba southward through the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan,” wrote W. J. Hoffman.

“Historic Timeline – The Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe, History of the Ojibwe of Waaswaaganing. Gaa’ishwebak ishkweyaang Events from the past that are behind us” tell us that around 3000 BC to 1000 AD, the Copper Culture inhabited the Northwoods. Woodland people live scattered around Flambeau, leaving many artifacts in the area. The three Nations of Anishinaabe, the Ojibwe (Keepers of the Faith), the Potawatomi (Keepers of the Sacred Fire), and the Ottawa (the Traders), according to prophecies, begin to migrate westward following the appearances of the miigis shell. By the time Christopher Columbus arrived in the Caribbean, most of the Ojibwe migrated to the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie.

The Historic Timeline also notes that around 1500, the Anishinaabe Nations began to arrive in the western Great Lakes region, near and around what would become known to the people as Makiinak Minissing (Turtle Island).

For the next century, the Ojibwe Nation continued to venture westward, following the north shore and the south shore of the big lake, which they would call Gitchii Gamig (later to be named Lake Superior, written as “Gitchee Gumee” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his *The Song of Hiawatha*).

In *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions*, authors Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri wrote, “An epic story of migration, known as the Wallum Olum, was told by our ancient ancestors, the Lenni Lenape. Few contemporary Ojibwe really know the story of the Wallum Olum because we have chosen to concentrate on our most recent migration from the area that is now Newfoundland. The Wallum Olum describes a journey from the west to the Atlantic Ocean, of the eventual dispersion of the people as they branched out and became their own nations, took on new names, and evolved into the



Ojibwe migration. Photo is the property of *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions* by Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri.



Madeline Island (Mooningwanekaaning, “The Home of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker”). Photo is the property of *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions* by Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri.

tribes we know today. The journey has our ancestors as far west as California, the home of our Lenape relatives the Yuroks and Wiyots. Amelia LeGarde, a highly respected Ojibwe storyteller, noted that at one time our people were in the west, ‘as far as California.’ The Wallum Olum tells of the encounters as they journeyed east and came upon the indigenous people of the Rockies and Great Plains, the great mound builders of the Mississippi, and eventually with our traditional enemies the Iroquois. Other tribes with Lenape roots, including the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Cree, Blackfeet, Shawnee and Miami, may have settled as others made their eastward journey, or like the Ojibwe moved east only to move westward in another migration. Eventually, the Lenni Lenape reached the Atlantic Ocean and settled along the Delaware River. From there, some of them branched out to the north to New England to become our relatives the Montauk, Wampanoag, Pequot, Narraganset, Nipmuc, Penobscot, Passamaquaddy and others. Others, including the Ojibwe, moved north to the St. Lawrence River area in what is now Newfoundland, and then west. The last entry of the Wallum Olum was written in 1638 to announce the arrival of a boat load of European settlers. The westward migration began as a journey as one people with the Ojibwe, Ottawa and Potawatomi. Separation of the three peoples came at the Straights of Michilimacinac (where Lake Michigan converges with Lake Huron). At that point, some Ojibwe proceeded north and became the first nation Ojibwe of Canada and the ancestors of the people of present-day Grand Portage in Minnesota and Turtle Mountain in North Dakota. Another group went south and west to the areas where we live today. The Ottawa chose to stay near Sault Ste. Marie and the Potawatomi moved into northern Michigan.”

The Historic Timeline tells us, in 1680, the Ojibwe Nation doodem (clans) began to arrive at the farthest westward point of Gitchii Gamig on a small island according to what prophets foretold. In this region, according to those prophecies, they began to find “the food that grows on the waters” (manoomin – wild rice). This is why they call the people who are inhabiting the region Manoominiig (people of the rice).”

“Madeline Island, which lies so majestically just offshore from Red Cliff, Wisconsin, is the great homeland of the Ojibwe. Most of our Ojibwe ancestors originally came from Madeline Island. There they lived in a large community estimated at over 10,000 people,” wrote Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri, authors of *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions*.

We look forward to continuing to share Lac du Flambeau’s history next month.

To learn more about Lac du Flambeau’s history, visit the museum online at www.ldfmuseum.com or take a trip through time by visiting the museum in person. Winter hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ELDERS SPEAK: Jo Jo Thompson BY BRANDON THOMS

It took some coaxing and a lot of patience, but after months of trying, we finally convinced Tribal Elder Jo Jo Thompson to share a little piece of his Lac du Flambeau history. Just past his graven exterior lays a unique, deeply caring man whose sensitivity trumps any misconceptions one may have about this man with a stoic disposition. At first glance, Jo Jo gives the impression of a man hardened by years of hot summers and cold winters. Yet after the first 60 seconds into our conversation, I immediately knew he was a man of substance, and one I wish I had known sooner.

Jo Jo lives a simple, quiet life with his two dogs: Baby, who is 14 years old, and Betty Boop, who is three months. Many may recognize him by his trademark hat or by the various stuffed critters that adorn the hood of his car. Born in Hayward to the late Jim and Mary Thompson, Jo Jo was the youngest of 17 children and believes family is the most important thing in a person's life. "I went through hell and back, but my family is what got me through all of it," he says. He lost both parents at a very young age; his mother when he was six, and his father when he was 16. Jo Jo and his sister, Harriet "Odie" Thompson, are the only surviving members of his immediate family, and Odie is now residing in Keshena.

Jo Jo isn't shy to speak of the struggles he's seen in life, and counts his 21 years of sobriety as a precious blessing which he protects. "I used to drink a lot when I was younger. We would go all over Chicago raising hell, it was

like half of Flambeau lived down there during that time," he says grinning. He talks about the heart attack that left him clinically dead and his experience while doctors worked feverishly to revive him. A very giving man, he genuinely cares for his fellow man, often going above and beyond to help anyone who asks for his assistance.

Question: Where were you born?

Answer: "I was born in Hayward, Wisconsin."

Question: What was it like growing up in Lac du Flambeau?

Answer: "It was good. I had a big family. My mom died from cancer when I was six years old, so my dad raised us, along with my older sisters. We used to live back in Dogsville, all of us did. My whole family did. I remember going out into the woods hunting and fishing, and to cut wood. We used to get \$.06 for a stick. When I got a little older, I started hanging around the wrong people and ended up getting into trouble. But I had a good life."

Question: Did you live in Lac du Flambeau your entire life?

Answer: "No, I moved to Chicago in 1967 and came back to Flambeau for a while in the '80s. Then I moved to Red Cliff in '94 and lived there for 18 years."

Question: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Answer: "I had 16 brothers and sisters. I was the youngest."

Question: Do you have any children?

Answer: "I have one daughter, Mary, and three grand-daughters: Jolene, Rai-



na and Billie."

Question: What is your hope for the Lac du Flambeau community?

Answer: "I hope the Tribe can do more for the Elders. I know they have cracked down on crime but I want them to get rid of the crime. I hate to see houses boarded up. I try to help every-

one I can. I hope people would realize what they're getting into before they choose to do wrong. I would want people to quit drinking and help their kids. I think we need to help the parents to be better for the kids. But I would like to see people living better, including the Elders."



The Communications Office is pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with *Inwewin*, the Tribe's monthly newspaper. "Inwewin" is an Ojibwe word that means "Voice." Asema (tobacco) was passed and the name came forth out of thoughtful deliberation. The word "Inwewin" is an all-inclusive term. Just as we humans (Anishinabe) have a voice that conveys our thoughts, desires and emotions, so does all of Creation. When we hear the whistle of an eagle, the cry of a loon and the call of the wolf, this is "Inwewin."

In addition to the Tribe's monthly newspaper, you may also keep current on Tribal news by following us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/LDFtribe) or on Twitter (www.twitter.com/LDFtribe).

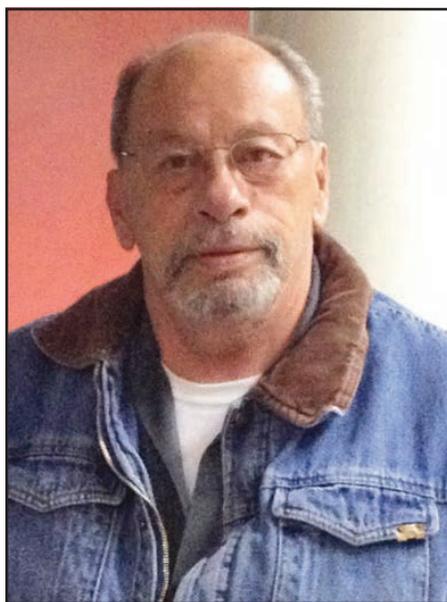
Subscribe to our weekly *Inwewin* e-newsletter to keep up with new developments, birth announcements and the other exciting happenings with the Tribe.

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Deadline for submission is the second Monday of each month.

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GETTING TO KNOW THE COUNCIL: Henry “Butch” St. Germaine



time Tribal leader. Having served in the past as Tribal President, Vice-President, and currently as Councilman, his knowledge of the Tribe and its workings is priceless. Butch's love for the William J. Poupert, Sr. Tribal Fish Hatchery was reflected in his desire to talk about one of the Tribe's longtime successes. He readily spoke of the commitment of the Fish Hatchery staff to continuing the long tradition of fishing, but learning about him personally proved to be challenging.

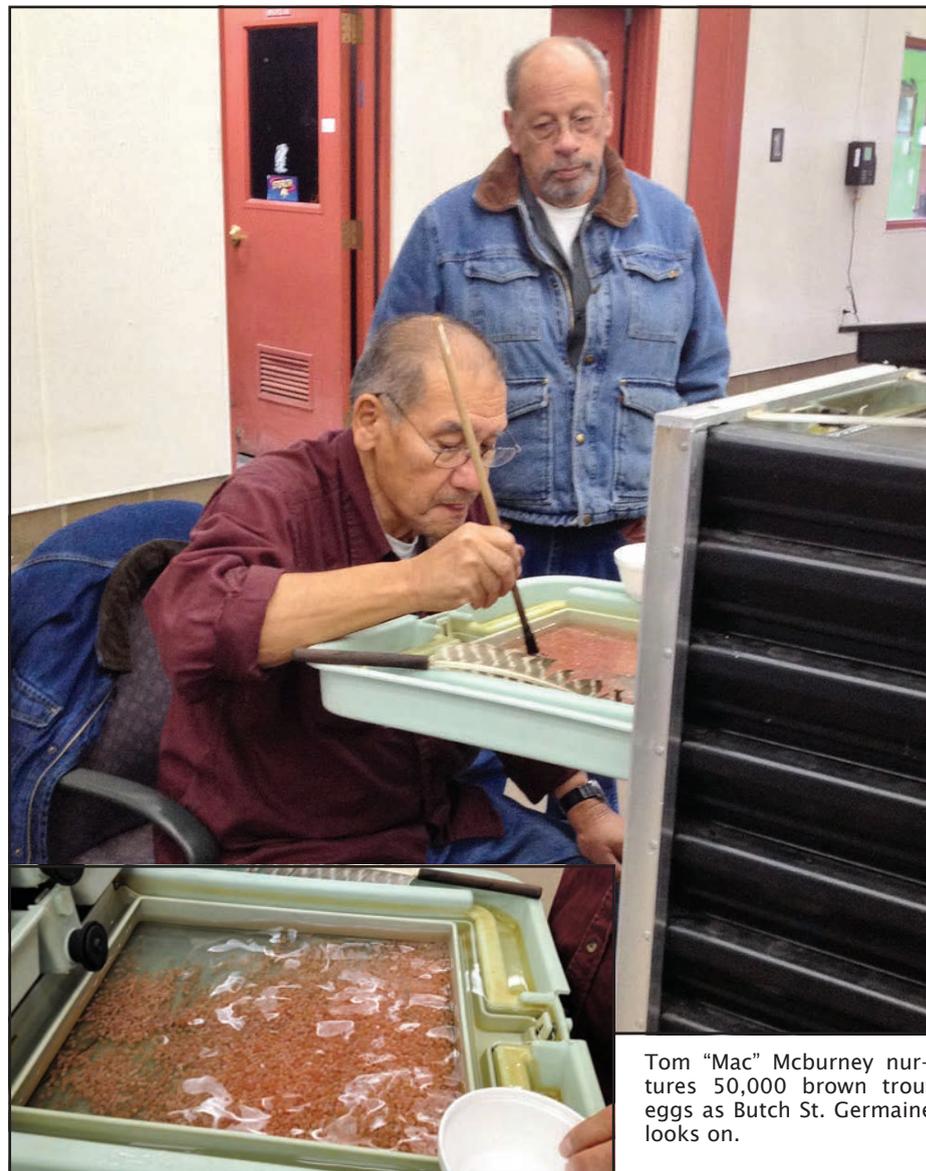
Butch was raised on the north end of Lake Pokegama. He began his working life as a welder after attending school in Milwaukee. He worked on off-shore drilling platforms in Texas and at the Naval yard in Washington state. His welding and building skills have served him well, and he created many of the tools and items that are regularly used at the Fish Hatchery.

His passion for his work at the Fish Hatchery is evident. He provided a tour, showing the 50,000 brown trout eggs that recently arrived. Staff members were also preparing for the 150,000 rainbow trout eggs that were expected shortly. Work doesn't stop in the winter – net repairs and the servicing of equipment is done along with the care and feeding of the fry and fingerlings.

Carl White (left) and Ed Poupert, Jr. (below) repair and ready nets and gear for the coming season.

Each month, *Inwewin* features a Tribal Council Member. Our goal is to provide you with information about the leaders of the Tribe, including their personal thoughts on their work as a Council Member.

Henry “Butch” St. Germaine is a long-



Tom “Mac” Mcburney nurtures 50,000 brown trout eggs as Butch St. Germaine looks on.

In 2012, the Fish Hatchery stocked area lakes with more than 16,000 brown trout and more than 13 million walleye. In 2013, the Fish Hatchery stocked area lakes with more than 14,000 brown trout and more than 16 million walleye. Walleye and muskellunge were impacted by the cold, wet conditions we experienced this past spring.

The Fish Hatchery's rearing facilities have 12 circular tanks, 10 lined rearing ponds, and have lake and well water available. Fingerlings include walleye, muskellunge, rainbow trout, brown trout, cisco, white suckers, lake sturgeon and fathead minnows. Eggs are raised to three or four inches before moving them outside to the rearing ponds. The staff of six, down from a high of 18, are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as they care for the eggs and young fish.

Butch began his career at the Fish Hatchery 30 years ago as a night watchman. He moved up to Assistant Hatchery Manager, and for the past 20 years he has been the Fish Hatchery Manager. The Fish Hatchery receives no General Fund dollars, relying solely on grant funding. As funding has

declined, the number of staff has been reduced – but the duties and responsibilities remain numerous.

He began his service as a Council Member in 1985, and in 2000 he served as Chairman for four years. He took a break, but returned a couple of years ago and was recently re-elected.

Butch was clear in his priorities as a Tribal Council Member. “We need to return to the traditional ways. We need to come together and do more for our people. We take care of the Elderly and Youth, but need to do more for the middle-aged. They are living with their families, and they need a place of their own,” he said. He also talked about the Exclusion discussions. “If we're looking at banishing our own People, the People must make that decision. We must listen to the voice of our people, and give the people a chance – the Council needs to hear that.

“This Council is working well together. We don't always agree on everything, but we're talking. We're not always right. If you're not learning something new every day, something is wrong with you,” he said with a light-hearted laugh.

TREATY TRACKER

Tribal Council Members, along with Tribal Voigt Intertribal Task Force Representatives, met with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to discuss updates related to natural resource regulations. Also known as “Stipulations,” the gatherings are an ongoing series of meetings between the Chippewa Bands in Wisconsin and the DNR to address proposed changes in regulations that govern any form of Tribal harvesting of natural resources. The Stipulations happen every two years, and have been ongoing since 2004. DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp did not attend due to a family situation, but Executive Assistant Scott “Gundy” Gunderson attended, along with a host of DNR staff and attorneys. Voigt representatives from the six Chippewa Bands were present and accompanied by attorneys Jason “KeKe” Starks and Jim Schlender, Jr.

The state is requesting that many of the current stipulations that have successfully monitored and regulated Tribal harvests for years be changed or altered. This includes trapping, hunting and timber harvesting. The state is looking to place further restrictions on the exercise of Tribal Treaty Rights. Tribal President Tom Maulson, along with Mike Wiggins, Jr., Bad River Chairman, continuously thwarted efforts by Mr. Gunderson to get the Tribes to agree with increased restrictions. Frank Mitchell, Gus Theobald and Scott Smith, the Tribe’s Voigt Representatives, were on hand and took Mr. Gunderson to task. After several exchanges between Mr. Gunderson and Voigt attorneys, Mr. Gunderson lost his composure, hollering, “(Expletive), I do give a (expletive).”

A quick look at Mr. Gunderson’s record as both a member of the state assembly and in his current role will give perspective on what the Tribes are up against. In 2004, while representing Wisconsin’s 83rd District, Mr. Gunderson proposed legislation that would have privatized thousands of miles of Wisconsin’s rivers and streams, which included portions of every trout stream in the state. This legislation would have essentially closed public access to nearly half of Wisconsin’s waterways. In 2008, Mr. Gunderson blocked ratification of the Great Lakes Compact until his colleagues from other states worked to remove a critical ground water protection provision. The removal of the provision put Wisconsin’s lakes and streams at risk of exploitation from bottled water and mining corporations.

Chippewa Treaty Rights and the natural resources within the state appear to be under attack. With the recent authorization of a legalized wolf hunt, the continued pursuit of a mine in the Penokee Hills and attempts to privatize hunting activities in the state, one can only draw this conclusion. This makes the importance of maintaining Treaty Rights, and the work of the Voigt Intertribal Task Force, more critical than ever to the protection of the state’s natural resources.

As of press time, another round of Stipulation meetings between the DNR and Chippewa Tribes was held on for Dec. 13 in Wausau. Further updates will follow in future editions of *Inwewin*.

Penokee Hills Education Project (formerly the LCO Harvest Camp)

The Penokee Hills Education Project has come under attack again from the Iron County Forestry and Parks committee. Members voted unanimously in early December to evict the residents of the site, which has been used as a camp to promote environmental education. The Iron County Board of Directors placed the item on their mid-December meeting agenda, but pulled the agenda item at the last minute, citing the insurance company is reviewing the issue.

The camp is located near the area of the proposed mine site in the Penokee Hills area. The committee voted in July to remove the camp, citing lack of proper permits. At that time, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe appealed to the Iron County board to allow the camp to stay. The board negotiated with organizers but an agreement could not be reached and talks stalled in August. Camp organizers claim that the camp is within the ceded territory and Chippewa Treaty Rights allow them access to the area.

Night Hunt

Federal Judge Barbara Crabb has denied the six Chippewa Bands the right to hunt whitetail deer at night. In her ruling, Judge Crabb cited previous stipulations between the Tribes and the state, and said that the Tribes did not demonstrate a “significant change” in circumstances since the earlier ruling. The Tribes argued that state authorized night hunting for small mammals and diseased (CWD) or nuisance deer, and the recent legalized wolf hunt was evidence that night hunting was safe. Judge Crabb disagreed with the Plaintiffs (Tribes), saying the Tribes waited 10 years after the state authorized the night hunt of diseased deer. Tribal leaders will weigh their options before deciding what, if any, action should come next.

GETTING TO KNOW THE COUNCIL: Alice Soulier

Meeting with Tribal Council Member Alice Soulier was a calming experience. Her steady demeanor and resolute passion for the community were evident throughout our time together.

Alice is a full-time caregiver for her 21-month-old nephew, Benji (“Waaban” - “Morning”), and her six-year-old niece, Angel. She is the mother of one son, Kory, who is 36 years old. She is also the grandmother to three grandchildren – Allyson, Gavin and Garrin.

She grew up in Lac du Flambeau, one of eight children. “My grandfather (Pete St. Germaine) helped my mom raise us in the house he built. It was a two bedroom, one bath home with no basement or running hot water. We had to heat the water ourselves, and used a big wash tub to take baths. Our grandfather was our rock. We were a poor family, but we didn’t know it at the time. He and Mom made sure we always had food,” she remembered fondly.

Alice attended the Flandreau Indian School in Flandreau, South Dakota. “My siblings went to Lakeland and I saw their struggles. I knew if I stayed, I wouldn’t make it. At Flandreau, I did good – excellent. I was involved with music; I sang and played the drums. I was in the National Honor Society.” Alice also graduated from Mt. Senario with a bachelor’s degree in sociology.

Alice served as a Tribal Judge for nine years. She was removed by the Tribal Council in January 2010, and recruited by the community to run for Tribal Council the following year. She is now serving her second term, having just been re-elected this past October. “As a Tribal Judge, I always tried to be fair. Now I really want to do what the people who voted for me want me to do. I go back and talk with the people – that makes it so clean for me when it comes time to vote on Council items,” she said.

When she was first asked to run, “I prayed about it. I talked with my partner, Dilly (Benjamin DeVerney), as this would impact our family. He told me that I would make an excellent Council Member and encouraged me to do so. He’s been very supportive.”

Caring for Benji and Angel full time and being an active Council Member doesn’t leave Alice much time. She attends community meetings when she is able, and works to stay in contact with key people. “Alcohol and drugs hit our family hard. I abused alcohol for a period of my life, but I gave that up. When my granddaughter was born, I was really touched. I didn’t want her to see me or smell me that way,” she shared.

When talking about her work on the Tribal Council, Alice was clear in her priorities. “We need a separation of powers. People are coming to us because they feel they are not being heard by the programs. Why is this happening? We need to work on this. We need to bring our services together to work more efficiently, to better coordinate services for our people. I think we need to look at restructuring how we are doing things.”

Her third priority was healing. “We’re people who have been affected by a lot of different things. Grief, alcohol, drugs and more. I’m not sure if people are ready to look at it and deal with it, but I’m very hopeful.”

When asked what her hopes for Lac du Flambeau are, Alice replied, “That we get back to community. Helping one another and being family oriented. As Indian people, we need to share our culture and traditions. Family is supposed to be our center, and our center needs to be healthy. I really like when we begin our Council meetings with smudging and the drum. For me, picturing myself holding the Eagle Feather allows me to speak from my heart and speak the truth. There’s a reason we have these things.”

As we ended our conversation, Alice said, “I really do appreciate the time I’ve had on the Council. I will continue to take into consideration what the people want. I want to thank the women in my life who have provided me with motherly guidance, including Tinker Schuman, Carol Maulson and Laverne Oestreich. I would also like to thank Dilly and my family for their support.”



Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to our Elders who are celebrating January birthdays

Edward Poupart 1/1
Donna Ayala 1/1
Richard Ledbetter 1/1
Eli Smith 1/2
Harvey Labelle 1/2
Lucille Olds 1/2
Donna Larson 1/2

Margaret McBurney 1/4
Lawrence Sheppo 1/5
John LaBarge 1/6
William Cross 1/7
Richard Dakota 1/8
Steven Carufel 1/8
Sharon Soulier 1/9

Sharon LaBarge 1/9
Wesley Coombs 1/10
Harvey Deal 1/11
Shirley Enerson 1/13
Eugene Soulier 1/13
Ernest Edwards 1/17
Pauline Phillips 1/18

Martin Kasper 1/18
William Schuman 1/21
Elizabeth Vetterneck 1/22
Laverne Grisa 1/23
Deanna Clark 1/24
Rose Burgess 1/24
Rosella Lavine 1/27

Lorraine Sunn 1/29
Delores Skenandore 1/31
Gladys Williams 1/31
Franklin Armstrong 1/31

PCHC Explains Patient Records Incident

In response to questions from the community about the recent incident involving patient records at the Peter Christensen Health Center, *Inwewin* met with Randy Samuelson, health director, and Michael Popp, HIPAA compliance officer. It's important to note that throughout our meeting, Randy was deeply affected by this incident. His duty to Tribal Members and the community is very important to him, and that was evident throughout our interview.

In early June, the Peter Christensen Health Center identified that an employee inappropriately accessed patient information. The employee had rights to certain information as part of their job, but was not authorized to view personal information. Following an immediate investigation, which resulted in confirmation of a violation of policy, the employee was fired. The PCHC did not reveal the name of the employee to *Inwewin* and is withholding the name from the general public, as this is a personnel issue.

Immediately following the termination of the employee, Michael performed a rigorous and detailed audit to identify the extent of the breach. This process began in early June and continued through September 2013. "The audit process consisted of reviewing all employee activity and determining if each instance of patient ac-



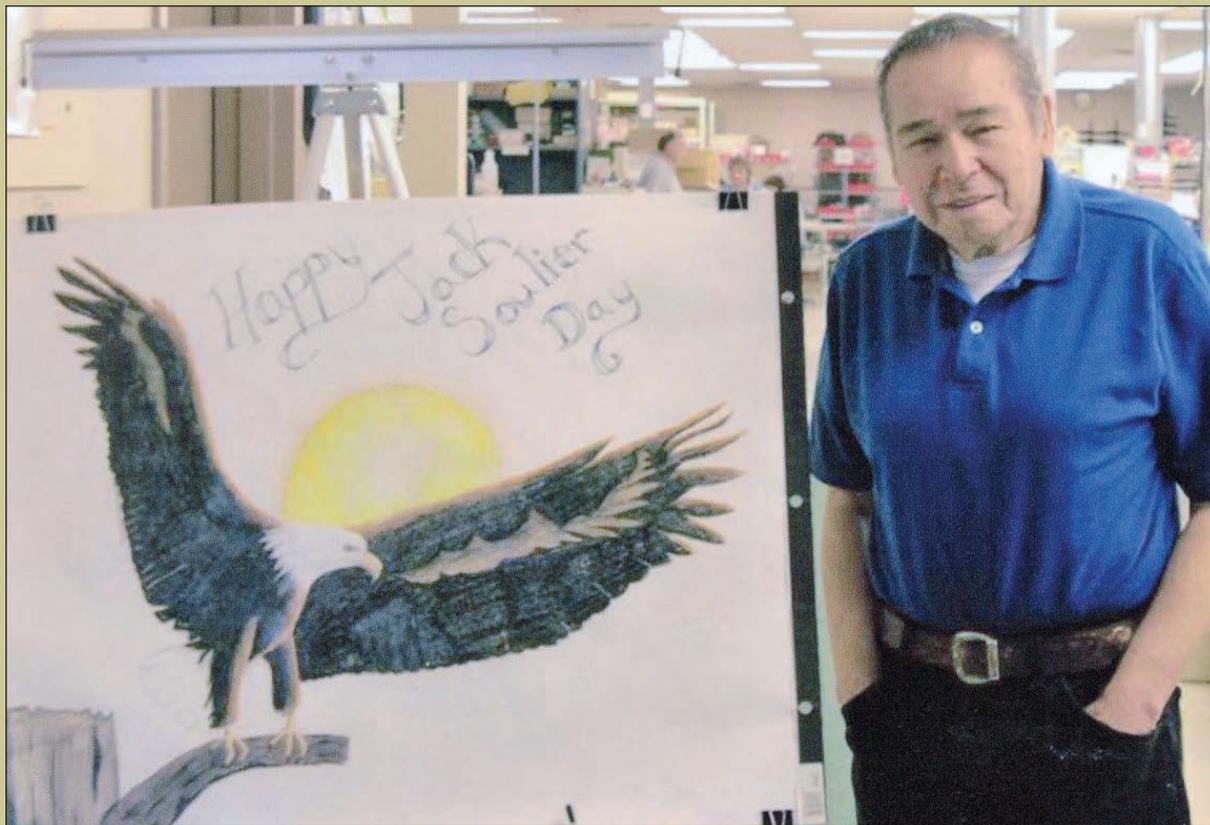
The Peter Christensen Health Center.

cess was justified as part of the employee's job. There were thousands of legitimate patient-activity transactions, and it took time to review all of them," explained Michael. "This was our first time performing this extensive and detailed of an audit. We have performed a

couple of audits in the past, but they were related to a single patient record. This audit ultimately identified approximately 10 percent of PCHC's patients," said Randy Samuelson.

Upon completion of the audit, the PCHC sent letters to patients whose records were inappropriately accessed. The letter provided Michael's contact information and directed patients to contact the Office of Civil Rights if affected patients wished to make a formal complaint.

Simpson Electric Celebrates Jack Soulier, Sr.



Editor's note – this article was scheduled to run prior to Jack's passing. We send our deepest sympathies to Mr. Soulier's family, and thank Simpson Electric for this tribute.

Following 56 years of service, Jack Soulier retired from Simpson Electric in June 2012. Jack worked in just about every department, but mainly worked in the fining department. Jack was Simpson Electric's "Jack of All Trades."

Jack left his mark, having close relationships with

co-workers over his many years of service. With Jack's retirement, Simpson Electric misses his sense of humor and stories (he could always make you laugh) – but most of all, they miss the man.

John "Jack" Soulier, Sr. passed away on Nov. 8, 2013. His is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sharon; their children Lori, Tracy, Jackie and John, Jr.; 13 grandchildren; brothers Gene and Gerald; sister Jenny; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Why do people need to contact the Office of Civil Rights to make a formal complaint? The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is the governing entity of patients' health records. "The Office for Civil Rights enforces the HIPAA Privacy Rule, which protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information; the HIPAA Security Rule, which sets national standards for the security of electronic protected health information; the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule, which requires covered entities and business associates to provide notification following a breach of unsecured protected health information; and the confidentiality provisions of the Patient Safety Rule, which protects identifiable information being used to analyze patient safety events and improve patient safety," as stated on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (www.hhs.gov) website.

This incident relates to an individual's rights rather than PCHC policies. "We will not compromise our patients' rights," said Randy emphatically. "Patients have a right to be informed if their personal health information was inappropriately accessed. This is a civil right. Our credibility and trust with our patients is vital. HIPAA exists to protect patients' rights," he continued. "In identifying the inappropriate access, taking immediate action, conducting a detailed investigation, and contacting patients as soon as possible, we see the system didn't fail."

Michael is a trained Certified HIPAA Privacy and Security Expert. He attends annual trainings to maintain his certification. "Every healthcare provider has a risk for a breach of data, and the PCHC is constantly reviewing its policies and procedures to reduce risk. Following this incident, the PCHC has put the following additional measures in place – (1) all new PCHC employees will undergo an audit at 30 and 90 days of employment, and (2) every PCHC employee will undergo a random audit once annually," said Michael.

If you wish to contact the Office of Civil Rights, their phone number is (800) 368-1019, and their website is www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/index.html.

Article VIII Amendment Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Article VIII Amendment that I keep hearing about and what does it do?

A: Article VIII defines the requirements for amending the Tribe's constitution. The proposed Article VIII amendment removes the federal government's process to amend the Tribe's Constitution, and replaces it with a 100% Tribal process. This new amendment process will grant greater protections to the People, ensuring that the People are involved in every future amendment to the Tribe's Constitution.

Q: Why is there a federal process for our Constitution?

A: The Tribe's Constitution is one of many tribal constitutions that were written during the Indian Reorganization Act era, when the federal government used the same template for many tribes' constitutions. All of these constitutions included federal oversight with the amendment process.

Q: What went into creating this proposed amendment?

A: The Constitution Committee, comprised of Gilbert Chapman, Phillip (Bub) Chapman, Betty Jack, Richard Jack (Chair), John LaBarge, Flo Ninham and William (Billy) Schuman, developed the proposed amendment over the course of a year. Part of the drafting process included six community meetings, where Tribal Members provided valuable input. Many of the ideas shared at the meetings were used to refine the amendment and to add increased protections for the People.

Q: Will the Article VIII amendment give the Tribal Council more power over Tribal Members?

A: No. Article VIII actually grants more protections to Tribal Members. These protections include – allowing the People to petition for constitutional amendments, requiring a public mailing be sent to all eligible voters, requiring at least three community meetings before an election, and requiring more Tribal Members (51%) to participate in the amendment election.

Q: Does Article VIII allow Exclusion (Banishment)?

A: No. Article VIII does not address exclusion or banishment. Article VIII only pertains to constitutional amendments by defining the amendment process.

Q: What will happen if the amendment passes?

A: All future amendments will use the new procedures found within the proposed language, including 100% Tribal process and increased protections for Tribal Members.

Q: What happens to the Tribe's current Election Code?

A: The Election Code will be revised to include the 100% Tribal process. The current process used to elect Tribal officials will largely remain the same.

However, there are plans to amend the Tribal Election Code to - more fully define the roles and responsibilities of the Election Board, allow for off-reservation absentee voting, allow for judicial review of Election Board decisions, a right of action in Tribal Court to dispute elections, and to restrict further amendments to the Election Code by requiring a referendum vote of the Tribal Members.

Q: What will happen if the amendment does not pass?

A: All future amendments will use the same process that currently exists, including requiring final approval by the federal government.

Q: When is the election for the Article VIII amendment?

A: Tuesday, January 14, 2014. Voting will be held at the William Wildcat, Sr. Community Center.

Q: Who can I talk to if I have more questions?

A: Contact Richard Jack – at the William Wildcat, Sr. Community Center at (715) 588-3303, or on his cell phone at (715) 892-8728.

LdF Public School Uses Mobile Technology to Enhance Learning



As part of an initiative that would put a mobile device in the hands of every student, the Lac du Flambeau Public School invested more than \$127,000 to purchase Apple iPads and Google Chromebooks for the 2013-14 school year. Students in 4K, kindergarten and 1st grade now have 20 iPads per grade level to share among the classrooms. Grades 2nd through 5th have 20 Google Chromebooks to share between the four grade levels. "The teachers have the option as a grade level to have 20 devices on a cart and move it around between classrooms, or they can split them up so there are five to a classroom," said Larry Ouimette, district administrator.

The school provides 20 Chromebooks for the 5th through 8th grade social studies and science classrooms. Ouimette says there is more to come. "What we're hoping to do is move to a situation where every student in 2nd through 8th grades would have their own Google Chromebook. Right now, we're at about a 3 to 1 ratio." Due to the number of devices initially ordered, the 7th and 8th grade literacy blocks also have 20 Chromebooks for each period. "Our Literacy Arts teachers now have a cart for each of their classes," said Ouimette. The school has 180 Chromebooks, with 170 currently in use. With the addition of 60 iPads and the Mac Lab (20 Mac Book Pro Laptops) for the library, there are a total of 260 new devices

available for student learning.

The Chromebook is a light, inexpensive notebook built for online computing. They are small laptops with 16 gigabytes of internal storage. They easily connect to the Google Drive operating system, and can store videos, music and pictures. Chromebooks are not as powerful as a laptop, but allow information to be backed up on the Google iCloud. The device has more offline features for situations where an Internet connection is not available. This allows a user to work offline, and the work to be saved. When an Internet connection becomes available, the work will automatically sync the files and update the system.

Ouimette said that in preparation for the students using both the Google and Apple platforms, the school purchased a Mac Lab for the library. "The students will have the opportunity to work on both the traditional PCs and laptops, and have the Mac Pro experience," Ouimette continued. "The Mac Lab will introduce children to Mac computers and allow them to do things that they couldn't do on a traditional PC. I think we have some teachers and students that want to do more creative things like making movies and doing some different types of things."

In anticipation of acquiring the new devices, over the summer the school made major upgrades to their wireless capacity and created new

hubs throughout the building. The addition in the number of devices required a network and bandwidth capable of supporting increased usage. Along with the wireless devices, the school is also going wireless with two of the resources for science and social studies. "If you are familiar with the Discovery Channel, we have purchased the Discovery Education Online resources. They have developed a science curriculum for K-12 and they have some very neat material. This really allows the teachers to bring in a lot of different media and online resources," said Ouimette. The program will provide interactive features and provide students with virtual learning opportunities.

With advancement in technological offerings at the school, students can stay on the leading edge of learning while teachers can streamline the process and become facilitators rather than traditional lecturers. The interactive tools also allow the teacher to accommodate a student's individualized learning style. Educators will be able to offer more hands-on, one-on-one time with students who may need extra help and attention. "When you're looking at limited time in a classroom, it really provides a personalized learning experience for our students," said Ouimette. "Technology is a tool and this will help our kids have a more enjoyable scholastic experience, while retaining the basic recall facts."

Council Retreat



Back row: Mike Allen, Sr., Butch St. Germaine, Jamie Armstrong, Mary Peterson, Alice Soulier, Jeaninne Bruguier.
Front row: Brooks Big John, Tom Maulson, Betty Jo Graveen.

As a direct result of the surveys the Membership completed during the distribution of the Cobell Settlement checks on Aug. 23, 2012, Ryan Champagne, State of Emergency Facilitator, organized an educational retreat for Tribal Council Members on Nov. 15, 16 and 17, 2013.

Of the 722 Tribal Members who completed the survey, 94 percent said they believed individuals running for a council position should receive governance and leadership training. The retreat focused on self-governance, constitutional reform and personal development. Sessions were held daily

at The Waters in Minocqua and gave Council Members a chance to discuss issues candidly at an informal location. The purpose in holding the retreat in Minocqua was to allow the Council to meet in an intimate setting during the day, and be home nightly to attend to family obligations.

Among the items on the agenda were: Foundations of Leadership, Leadership Models, Conflict Management and Implementing Change, to name a few. Participants were presented with individual and group activities in a workshop style environment. The time together provided an opportunity for Tribal leaders to openly discuss each other's strengths and weaknesses, and to build upon their existing relationships. Also discussed were ways to develop capacity from within the Tribal Membership itself and implementing community input as part of the Tribe's overall initiatives.

Tribal Treasurer Mary Peterson believes the outcome to be a success. "I think it's really good for the Council to sit and think collectively about what our primary goals are, and it helps us to lay a foundation on how to achieve our goals," said Peterson. "We talked about what some of our barriers to accomplishing those goals are, and the path we have to go down," continued Peterson. One of Peterson's main concerns is the Tribal Government's ability to adhere to policy. "We routinely violate our own policies and procedures. My issue is, don't violate them (policies and procedures). Amend the policy to accomplish what you're trying to do. Don't continuously violate them. We sometimes overturn a supervisor's personnel decision and we shouldn't be in that position," she added.

Champagne believes the Council has many positive things going for it as a group, and sees the Council's challenges as an opportunity to capitalize on individual strengths. "This training shows that the Tribal Council is listening to their constituency and is making active efforts to increase the standards of practice," said Champagne. "This is a huge step for the Tribal Council, taking the initiative to say, 'we heard the Membership.' The Membership identified there is a need for the Council to get leadership and governance training, and they have taken the Membership's lead," continued Champagne. Many in the Tribe feel Tribal Government should do more to include them in the decision making process and Champagne agrees. "This workshop was so successful that the Council believes they learned a lot about how not only to create policy but to be able to have the community's voice heard in that policy," said Champagne. "Their role as legislators is to look at the community's needs and build upon the wishes of the Membership," he added.

The Tribal Council will now look at how program managers and directors can benefit from similar trainings. They believe if program leaders are given the tools and resources to develop and implement policies, it would allow the Council to stay away from the day-to-day aspects of Tribal operations, ultimately empowering department heads in the performance of their duties.

LDF BDC Update – New Gas Station and Store

Phoenix Mansfield Energy, previously reported as Mansfield Oil, has signed on and is now providing fuel services to the gas station. Customers will not see any visual change in service at this time. The Tribe and Phoenix Mansfield are closer to finalizing plans for a new retail center and gas station. The new fuel logo and overall design will be unveiled as part of a complete marketing plan. Included in the plans is a branding campaign that will feature the Tribe's exclusive brand of fuel. The LDF BDC is working to secure financing for the project through several options, and other elements of design and development are being finalized.

Discussion continues on providing a car wash and national brand eatery in the convenience store. *Inwewin* will continue to monitor these exciting developments and provide exclusive updates as information becomes available.

Internet Lending

As was reported in last month's edition of *Inwewin*, the Tribe's Internet Lending Company had ceased providing loans in response to the FDIC's (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) interference with the Tribe's ACH (Automated Clearing House). "We are pleased to report that the issue has been resolved and the company is once again in full operation," said Melissa Doud, Internet Lending Company manager. The Internet Lending Company provides small, short-term loans to qualified applicants who meet stringent repayment criteria. Only candidates who have the ability to repay the loans without placing themselves in financial jeopardy are considered for loans. Doud says it's been a rough road, but she is happy to be up and running. "As of December 2nd, we are again generat-

ing our own revenue," said Doud enthusiastically. The FDIC questioned the Tribe's business model and ability to work with financial institutions. "They were concerned that we were using predatory lending practices," said Doud when asked about the FDIC's interference that led to lending business halting loans. Doud says that as both a Tribal Member and manager of the company, she understands the importance of having a resource available when in a financial pinch. "I know how it is to be stretched thin financially, especially when you have children and are raising a family. We're not loaning thousands of dollars to people. We provide very small loans, maybe at Christmas time or when someone needs a little money to get through until next pay day," she said.

The company is in the infancy stages, and hopes to eventually house a call center business. The call center would not only service the Internet lending business but contract with other businesses to handle call center duties. College students and Ogema Communications apprentices are currently serving internships at the Lending Company's call center, which is located in the Giikendasowin Education Center. "I've been training here for about three months," said Raelle Allen. When asked about his experience with the company so far, she said, "I'm learning all the features and nuances of the operating program."

Plans for an office and call center within a new industrial park complex are under consideration. The Internet Lending Company is currently accepting applications for a full-time call center agent. For more information about the Internet Lending Company, contact Melissa Doud at (715) 588-4225.

Akwa'waawin Ikidowinan = Spearing Through the Ice Terms

BY THE LAC DU FLAMBEAU
OJIBWE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Akwa'waawin Omaa Waaswaaganing

1.) Noongom idash, geyaabi niibowa Waaswaaganing Anishinaabeg akwa'waa'wag.

Still yet today, many Lac du Flambeau people are spearing fish through the ice.

2.) Waawiingeziwag agiw anishinaabeg, apane o gikendaanaawaa waa izhaawaad.

They are very skillful, those people, they always know where to go.

3.) Minawaa, weweni o gikendaanaawaa megwaa ozhitoonaawaan iniw bajiishkaa'ogaansan.

And they know it well, as they make those little tipis.

4.) Ishkwaa bindigoodewag, wenda waawiye'aadigaa mitig-giigoohnzens.

After they crawl into the tipi, that wooden minnow is swimming in a circle.

5.) Mii wenji gashkitood da wayezhimaan iniw ginoozhewan.

This is how he is able to fool the musky.

6.) Minwendam apii i dash owaabamaan iniw ginoozhewan.

He's happy when he sees that musky.

7.) O da bazhibawaan iniw ginoozhewan.

He should put his spear into that fish.

8.) Giishpin bazhibawaasiin, ganabaj bakadegwen ya'aw anishinaabe.

If he doesn't put his spear into the fish, perhaps he will go hungry.

9.) Naaningim, Gaawiin bakadesiwwag akwa'waadjig omaa Waaswaaganing.

Most often, they don't go hungry, those ones from Lac du Flambeau that spear fish through the ice.

10.) Mii'iw.

That's it.



Decoys carved by Duane Poupart Sr. (Master Decoy Maker), Lac du Flambeau.

Akwa'waa Anit (iin).....	Ice spear (s)
Akwa'waa-Anit-biiminikwaan (an).....	Spear-rope (s)
Mitig-giigoohnzehns (an).....	Wooden minnow (s)
Eshkan (an).....	Chisel (s)
Mikwam-Gwaabai'igan (an).....	Ice-scoop
Gitchi-migiskan (an).....	Gaff-hook (s)
Akwa'waa wigamigoohns (an).....	Spearing tipi (s)
Bajiishkaa'ogaans (an).....	Little tipi (s)
Zhiingobaandag (oon).....	Balsam bough (s)
Waadoop mitigoohns (an).....	Tag alder stick (s)
Waabooyaan (an).....	Blanket (s)
Zagaakwai'igan (an).....	Safety pin (s)
Zhooshko-daabaan (ag).....	Sled (s)
Wewebiganaak (oon).....	Stick (s) for pulling decoy
Babagawai'yaaniigan (an).....	Canvas

State Releases Tobacco Tax Rebate Monies to Tribe

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, Tribal Council Members traveled to Stevens Point to meet with the Wisconsin Department of Administration to discuss the tobacco tax rebate money that the state has withheld from the Tribe. The situation resulted from the Tribe's sale of tobacco purchased from the Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska. Although the tobacco possessed a tax stamp issued by the Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue claimed the Tribe did not have the authority to sell or trade the tobacco. The state held close to \$900,000 in rebate payments due the Tribe over the course of nearly six months.

The dispute started in July when the Wisconsin Department of Revenue intercepted and confiscated a shipment of tobacco bound for Reservations in Wisconsin. Among the alleged destinations was the Bad River Tribe in Odanah, Sokaogon Tribe in Mole Lake, St. Croix Tribe in Turtle Lake and the Ho-Chunk Nation in Black River Falls. Soon after the seizure of tobacco, the Department of Revenue issued a letter to the Lac

du Flambeau Tribe ordering the stoppage of any sale of "unstamped" tobacco to non-Indians. Lac du Flambeau took the position that as a sovereign nation, we have the right and authority to enter into business and commerce with other sovereign nations, as long as there were laws and ordinances to regulate such commerce. The Tribe also contends that the state has no authority to seize the tobacco, and demanded return of the property.

Shortly thereafter, the state began withholding the scheduled tobacco tax rebate monies due Lac du Flambeau and other Tribes. The state cited long-standing agreements between the parties and contended those agreements as reason to hold back the rebate payments. Lac du Flambeau argued that nowhere in the agreements did it authorize the state to withhold the rebates, and demanded the state release the monies. After a number of meetings, both sides were at an impasse.

It appeared as though no resolution would come from the meeting on Nov. 26, as the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council, frustrated at the lack of cooperation and be-

lieving the state had no legal standing, abruptly ended the discussions by walking out of the meeting. Other Tribes followed and prepared to file suit in the appropriate courts. Within hours of ending the meeting, Tribal leaders received calls from state officials indicating that the state wished to continue discussions. Consequently, through phone conversations, the state agreed to release the payments to the Tribe and by Dec. 5, rebate monies totaling close to \$900,000 were received. Tribal Council Member Brooks Big John said the abstract and unorthodox negotiation methods worked. "If we continue to let the state hold us hostage, we aren't doing our jobs as Tribal Legislators," said Big John. "Again Lac du Flambeau led the way by refusing to negotiate for something that was rightfully ours. If we hadn't have played hardball and stood up for our people, we may still be sitting at that table waiting for our monies."

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Boozhoo,

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and that you were able to share some quality time with your loved ones. Our families are the glue that holds our community together, and it is important that we make time for our children, spouses and Elders. The New Year is upon us and a simple resolution we can all make is to treat each and every day as a gift, a blessing from the Creator. When we look at life from this perspective, we can make it through the toughest of situations.

I would like to inform everyone that I underwent surgery in early December to receive a pacemaker to help regulate my heartbeat. I mentioned last month I had undergone some testing. After reviewing the results of those tests, my doctor advised that I would benefit from having a pacemaker. I am feeling well, and will continue to perform my duties as President of our great Lac du Flambeau Tribe. I thank everyone for all the inquiries of concern and prayers. This situation has forced me to be more conscious of how I care for my health, from watching what I eat to making sure I get adequate exercise. It is vital to our continued endurance as a people to protect our health by eating properly, exercising regularly and getting the proper amount of rest.

Some of our Council Members and I recently met with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration in Stevens Point to discuss the tobacco tax rebate money that the state has been withholding from the Lac du Flambeau Tribe and other Wisconsin Tribes. Last year our Tribe, in an effort to diversify our economy, entered into nation-to-nation commerce with the Ho-Chunk Tribe of Nebraska. Using our Tribal sovereignty, we began selling "Native" brand tobacco products. The tobacco was stamped with a Tribal tax stamp issued by the Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska. The state of Wisconsin Department of Revenue took issue with this and issued a "cease and desist" letter, citing the terms of our current agreement with the state. It was at this time that the state began withholding our rebate payments. The St. Croix, Bad River and Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin also had their payments withheld. It is our right as sovereign nations to develop and expand economic opportunities to meet the needs of our citizens. Although the meeting was a bit contentious at times, we stood fast in our position that the state had no right to hold the rebate payments. Subsequently, the Secretary of the Department of Administration Mike Huebsch agreed with us and the state released our tobacco rebate payments, which totaled close to \$900,000. The current tobacco tax agreement our Tribe has with the state is at least 30 years old and needs to be revised. If our Tribes stay united, we will have more strength in dealing with issues such as these.

Considering that we are coming into the toughest months of the year financially for our Tribe, all of our revenue-generating enterprises are doing very well. Ojibwe Market manager Randy Soulier, along with our Business Development Corporation Board, are continuing to work toward the development of a new grocery store and gas station, including our own private brand of gasoline. Phoenix Mansfield Energy, one of the top fuel suppliers in the country, is in the final stages of drafting a proposal specific to our requests. This has taken a little longer than expected because we want to be certain that this will be a successful business venture for our Tribe.

The Chippewa Housing Authority is working diligently to get all of the rental units in condition for occupancy. We have housing shortages and homelessness on our Reservation that affects the entire community, and we look forward to the addition of 20 new homes this spring. I ask that CHA tenants take care of their properties and abide by the rental agreements. The CHA is working closely with our Law En-



forcement Department to curb crime here on our Reservation. If you are having financial issues and are behind on rent, I suggest working with your Occupancy Specialist to make payment arrangements. Our housing system is here to help the Membership, but at the same time, tenants must respect the rules and uphold their agreements as none of us want to see our homes boarded up and not in use.

I am extremely excited about the changes that are happening here in our community. Our State of Emergency Facilitator Ryan Champagne is working with each program to identify ways that our departments can work more closely and efficiently with one another to maximize services and benefits to our Membership. Ryan, along with Peter Christensen Health Center Director Randy Samuelson and the team assembled to get the transitional living homes certified and operating, met with Kitty Rhoades, the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, and her staff last month to tour the proposed homes. The DHS has committed to funding the homes, which will provide sober, drug-free living environments for individuals and families in crises. Once the homes receive the proper certifications, new funding opportunities will open the ability to expand services. The Tribe will continue to explore additional treatment options for people who want to live healthy, productive, substance-free lifestyles.

As I have stated before, our Council is committed to removing illegal drugs and criminal activity from our Reservation. Operation Pandora is still in effect and our law enforcement personnel have continued to make arrests related to drug and criminal activity in our community. There is a "community policing" movement happening on our Reservation, and our police department is seeing an increase in the number of individuals who are reporting crimes and suspicious activity. This indicates to me that people have had enough of the drugs and crime, and are looking to help clean up our community. If you are dealing in any type of illegal activity, we will not rest until you are brought to justice. It is not an easy path to take, as we all have family or friends who are suffering as a result of chemical abuse. However, if you are involved in any illegal activity, or are harboring those who have been removed from our Reservation, you will face legal consequences.

Our Tribal Council has been discussing the possibility of bringing back the positions of Deputy Administrators. Our Tribe is similar to a privately held corporation, mixed with the complexity of a governmental organization. The uniqueness of our situation creates a host of diverse circumstances. The Tribe has begun to address this by creating the LDF Business Development Corporation. The Council recognizes separating business from politics is essential to the long term success of the Tribe. It has been discussed

that three or four Deputy Administrators assigned to a particular area may help with efficiency and provide increased accountability. This has not been decided and is only in the discussion phase, yet I want to share this so that talk of it doesn't take anyone by surprise.

Lake of the Torches Convention Center hosted the monthly meeting of the Chippewa Federation in December. The Federation is made up of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake (Sokaogon), Red Cliff and St. Croix Bands of Ojibwe. Each Tribe's elected Council sits on the governing board of the Federation, and meetings are much like that of any regular Tribal Council meeting. We meet to discuss common issues, develop strategies for tackling our issues, and share information and resources as we work to better our communities. Our Director of Public Relations, Brandon Thoms, was recently appointed by the Federation to head up the media efforts of the organization. Lac du Flambeau has been a leader in many aspects of the Federation and this appointment speaks to those leadership qualities. We hope to someday have every Ojibwe Tribe in North America as a member of the Federation, allowing us to approach situations with a unified voice.

I will be traveling to Washington, DC, this month to meet with the Environmental Protection Agency, as I sit on the EPA's American Indian Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of Tribal leaders from across the country to address critical environmental issues that affect Indian Country, including mining, air and water quality. Protecting our resources is essential to our survival, and I will continue to speak out against any activity that jeopardizes the health of our Mother Earth.

One of the biggest events to take place in the modern history of our Tribe is coming up. The Secretarial Election to amend Article VIII of the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Constitution is scheduled to take place Jan. 14, 2014. Our current constitution was one authored by the federal government and imposed upon us. It was written without our input or our best interests at heart. In many ways, we are still in bondage to the federal government, with the Secretary of the Department of the Interior having final say on any of our elections. It is my belief that we are more than capable of making our own decisions. The Tribe's Constitution Committee has hosted a series of educational workshops that focused on the process of amending Article VIII and how the proposed amendment will impact the Tribe. They have done an outstanding job in coordinating this effort and should be recognized for their commitment to our Tribe. We have had an overwhelming response from our community in regards to offering input and direction. Any time we as Indian people have the opportunity to strengthen our sovereignty and control our own future, we should readily accept the challenges. I am aware that our relatives at the White Earth Chippewa Nation in Minnesota have recently voted to reform their constitution. They have many of the same issues as we, and they chose to make the changes they felt necessary for their success into the future. I urge every eligible voter to exercise your right to vote in this election. This will affect our Tribe for generations to come!

As we journey further into the winter months, let me remind everyone that this time of year is often financially hard on our families. Let's do our best to help one another and help ourselves by being diligent in the use of our gas and electricity. Turning down your thermostats by a couple of degrees when you're not home can save on heating costs. Being mindful of the little things can lead to success in the big things.

Traditionally, winter was a time of gathering, story-telling and sharing. Let us go into the New Year with clear minds and good hearts. When we treat each other with love and respect, it comes back to us in ways too numerous to count.

Miigwitch and Giigawaabaamin
President Tom Maulson

LDF TRANSIT SERVICE

Monday through Friday - 5:00 am to 8:00 pm

Rates From Lac du Flambeau to Woodruff and Minocqua:

One Way Standard Fare - \$2.50 each

One Way Standard Elders Fare (Age 55+) - \$1.25 each

One Way Special Fare - \$5.00 each

One Way Special Elders (Age 55+) Fare - \$2.50 each

Route From Lac du Flambeau to Woodruff and Minocqua:

Route begins in Lac du Flambeau with door-to-door service, and include stops at the Casino and Ojibwe Market.

Woodruff and Minocqua stops include:

- Walgreens
- Howard Young Medical Center
- Marshfield Clinic
- Trig's
- Walmart
- Lakeland Union High School
- Save More Market

Routes to Woodruff from Lac du Flambeau are run at 5:30 am, 7:30 am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. More specific route times will be available in the future.

Demand Response Service:

Within Lac du Flambeau (Ojibwe Market, Post Office, Health Clinic, Dental Clinic, Casino, Smoke Shop, etc.)

One Way Fare - \$.75 each

One Way Elders (Age 55+) Fare - \$.25 each

One Way Elders (Age 55+) Fare - \$.50 each

Extended Area Demand

Response Service:

Outside of the two mile radius
in Lac du Flambeau

One Way Fare - \$1.25 each

One Way Elders (Age 55+) Fare - \$.50 each

1 - 855 - LDF - RIDE (533-7433)



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

FEATURING
**THE JAM FACTORY
BAND**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

9PM - 1AM • \$5 ADMISSION

(Proceeds to benefit the Northwoods United Way)

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