



LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS

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TOM MAULSON
TRIBAL PRESIDENT

Boozhoo

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It's the time of year here in Waswagoning, when we start preparing ourselves for the cold months and the winds from the north. The cold weather keeps the sickness down but it takes a toll on our elders. We have a major concern in our community about making sure our elders are set for this coming winter. Winter months sometimes produce many hardships for people in our community.

Even though we have not passed a referendum for our budget for 2012, the Tribal Government will be looking at the budget as it stands. Hopefully people will take time to ask questions and participate in Tribal Governmental meetings to so they have a better understanding of the direction that the Tribal leadership is taking. Sometimes it's hard to be a leader- it's difficult to appease everyone. But we'll work through the obstacles, as always.

Each year we have a turnover of six legislators. I encourage our Tribal members to take a hard look at the candidates and choose who YOU want to represent you on the Council, not a candidate that someone else chooses for you, to represent you in a good way. I'm hoping that when you go to the polls on the 4th of October, that you mark the right person to represent you.

We have had some success recently; the completion of long term infrastructure projects. As you drive up to the community center you will now see a digital marquee that will show details of events that are taking place on the reservation from council meetings, committee meetings, to casino events.

We recently celebrated the grand opening of our new Public Safety Complex, Natural Resource Complex, pump house and roads projects. A lot of people from the community showed up to hear speeches, tour the buildings, and participate in

the feast. It was a very positive day. We once again put Waswagoning on the map in our endeavors to improve our environment for future generations to come. We must make efforts to redeem the obligations of the Federal system to us as Indian people and to work with other governments such as the Town, Vilas County, and the State.

I encourage everyone to ask questions of your legislators; come forth and ask first these questions first-hand. Ignore rumors that may cause ill will toward our Tribal legislators. Transparency in Tribal Government is necessary. We are continuously working hard to make progress in that area as issues come before Tribal government.

As you know the school has imposed a policy to have all our young people wear uniforms. One of the reasons for this is because of the gang issue involving some of our young people. As a person living in this community, I ask that you stand up to make sure that these situations involving gang mentality is eventually cleaned up so our young people will have the opportunity to go to any school without mandates. Everyone in our community needs to stand up and put an end to gangs on our reservation. It has to end.

We have a new Fiscal year starting on October 1st for all Tribal Operations. We're hoping to shift gears in the direction that will help all people from young to old.

I wish everybody a beautiful Fall. Hunting and trapping seasons are almost here-privileges that are afforded us as Indian through Treaties signed by our grandfathers. Ice and snow will be here before you know it. Be safe.

Miigwetch!!!

Tom Maulson

President

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians