

Learning about the Affordable Care Act and us



**CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

It's been an extremely busy month for me. On Nov. 7, our tribe hosted a United Tribes of Michigan special meeting regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mim Dixon, who is the nation's expert on the ACA was there to explain and answer questions. I am happy to say that this was the largest United Tribes of Michigan meeting as many tribal leaders and their health, legal and billings staff were in attendance. Everyone in attendance was very impressed with the information provided and the hospitality shown to them. I would like to take this time to thank our chairperson, Aaron Payment, for his

cooperation and assistance in planning and complementing this important meeting. Miigwech to directors Pine and McLeod, and to Peggy Hemengway and Keith Smith, for helping to cook our traditional feast we provided to our fellow Anishinaabeg neighbors. Chi miigwech to our Kewadin Casino staff who outdid themselves in preparing our foods, our meeting room, and our services. Outstanding!

The outcome of this meeting will hopefully help all tribes in Michigan to understand the changes that the ACA will bring to our Anishinaabeg.

On behalf of our tribal chair-

person, I attended a meeting with Dr. Dave Zinley and Dr. Saliya in regards to establishing and promoting our internship program for our tribe in partnership with Lake Superior State University. A workshop presentation to the tribal board will be planned after the new year. Our chairperson plans to meet with LSSU's president and provost for more detailed conversations. I support this effort and look forward to working with LSSU.

At this time, I am attending a quarterly National Indian Health Board meeting and will soon travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Obama as a

member of Secretary Sebelius' Tribal Advisory Committee. I have the opportunity to join Chairperson Payment in meeting our president. We have an extremely busy schedule while in D.C. and I will report our activities next month in my next unit report.

Until then, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and I hope to see you at the New Year's Eve Powwow. Cheers to you and your family and remember, "Jesus is the reason for the season!"

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at cabramson@saultribe.net or call me at (906) 322-3823.