

Abramson: the honor of one is the honor of all



**CATHY ABRAMSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

First of all, I would like to congratulate our chairperson for his recent presidential appointment to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education!

He's worked hard for this appointment and he deserves the accolades. Overall, the honor of one is the honor of all! Does this take him away from his job as chairperson? I say no! It only enhances our tribe's ability to give the much-needed input into

the educational goals of our people. I chair the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, a committee of which Aaron is an active member. He passionately speaks of our tribe, its successes and issues of concerns.

Because we are active at a national level, we have access to high administrative officials that can actually help us cut through the red tape. We are also very familiar with Senate and congressional legislators.

The opposition to these national committees, meetings or other invitations at such a high level is regrettably misguided and unacceptable. Many tribes would be honored to be in our position to be receiving such appointments to national committees, advisories and/or representatives, and our tribe needs to continue to be active at the national level. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has a voice or voices at the national level. We are helping to make a difference.

We must continue to secure, maintain and nurture this behav-

ior of elected officials, not tear each other down. Extremely hard work and dedication to our people is given to such efforts and I must ask that you continue to support your tribal board members who are making a difference at the national level.

Encourage others to fight for the good of the people! Change can happen, we can make a difference! We as Anishinaabe have many battles, whether it's:

- Suicide prevention
- Substance abuse
- Environmental dangers and concerns
- Preserving our culture and traditions
- Education
- Healthcare, or
- Treaty rights.

Ask yourself this: if you get an invitation to the White House or other national committees, would you accept or decline? Would you seize the opportunity or would you pass this up fully knowing that this would help our tribe? I thought so.

I am very happy that Director

Darcy Morrow has joined me on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Tribal Advisory Committee. I can see that she will be a very vocal addition to this committee. CDC administration has been learning more about tribes and how we would like to use our culture and traditions to help us become a healthy nation again. Grants have not been tribal friendly and because of that, tribes haven't been able to meet the qualifications to apply.

Director Morrow and I met with the head of the Environmental Department to discuss our concerns and issues with the Graymont mine and the Enbridge pipeline. They are interested in coming for a site visit to see how they might help us out.

Also, a special meeting was conducted by Dr. Ursula Bauer of CDC and traditional healers from across the nation were invited to give their input on how our ways can help our people. It went over so well, another

meeting is being planned. Their understanding of how we do things will help them develop tribal specific grants. I'm really excited about this. We have been working on this for years and it has actually made its way this far. We hope to host this very important follow up meeting in the spring.

All of our staff submitted their 2016 budgets in May. Our board has finally received them and we will be going over them and soon approve. I am very much supportive of reinstating our 401K program and giving our employees a cost of living increase. I am optimistic with the outcome.

For those of you who feel they need help in clearing their mind and mending their hearts, there will be a fall fasting camp on Oct. 1-6 at the culture camp on Sugar Island. Call 632-0236 or 632-0220 for more information.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you, as always. My cell phone is (906) 322-3823 and my e-mail is cabramson@saulttribe.net.