

No Lansing casino means declining revenue



**DEBRA PINE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

Ahniin Anishnabeg.

I write with a heavy heart, there have been so many people that have walked on this winter in our community. I just want to say a special prayer for all those tribal members who lost someone this season and for those people who are struggling with sick relatives. Miigwech Gzhe-mnidoo maanda giizhegat. This is the simplest prayer and it is one of thanks to the Creator. With Semaa in your hand, this is the easiest way to give thanks to the Creator for this day.

We will be going into our next board meeting having to make a

decision as to whether or not to proceed with the Lansing project. A referendum was submitted and we will hear from the Election Committee and the Legal Division to see if the referendum was submitted properly and is sufficient to send out for a vote.

This last month has been a flurry of meetings with the membership in the Michigan area. I will say that most meetings have gone well. The general feeling going into the meeting is one of opposition and skepticism but when the people adjourned, our membership was generally in support of our efforts.

Here's the thing people; you can vote on this but it does not make it a better project. You can vote on it but it does not guarantee success. You can vote on it and we will have to spend another \$35,000 on a referendum we cannot afford. You can vote on it and spend the money, that is your right. Here is the most important thing...What if it gets voted down?

If the Kewadin Lansing Casino project gets voted down, our tribe will still have declining revenues and increasing population demands. If it gets voted down, our tribe will still have a "Boomer" population that will continue to see

their elder checks decline. If it gets voted down, you will see more belt tightening and less membership services. Simple factors that I can point to are increasing gas prices and increasing food costs. Those are indicators of what we will be dealing with the rest of this year. Our tribe needs this revenue source to work. We simply cannot go on the way we have and I as a tribal leader cannot stand back and watch us backslide. Please vote to support the Lansing project.

Sincerely,
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