

# Director Chase: Your input needed for tribal transit plan



**DENISE CHASE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to congratulate all the elected board members and I look forward to working with all of you.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Joan Carr Anderson, DJ Malloy and Debra Pine for their years of commitment and service to the tribe, membership and their communities. They are three strong women who brought a wealth of knowledge and input to our tribe in their individual ways.

Once again, I would like to say “happy retirement” to my good friend Joan and I wish her all the best, safe travels and good health.

The Manistique powwow had a great turnout and nice weather this year. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the powwow. Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to pass for the feast meal and anyone who donated items for the auction. I’m not going to try and mention individual names, because I don’t want to leave anyone out. I know Viola is doing a thank you in the local paper from the powwow committee.

For sale: Gathering of the Clans Powwow T-shirts. Youth and adult sizes available. If interested, call Viola at 341-6993 or Darcie at 203-6699 or Denise at 322-3819. \$10 kids, \$15 SM-XL,

\$18 XXL-1X.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in collaboration with Corradino Group is currently conducting a study to develop a tribal transit implementation plan. The purpose of this study is to develop a three-year plan for public transportation services in our service area. It’s important that we gather input from community members to help us access current transit needs, use and/or identify ways of improving transit services.

The Corradino Group, Sault Tribe and transportation planner Wendy Hoffman held a number of meetings throughout the seven-county service area in June to get input on our membership’s transportation needs. If you were unable to attend one of the meetings, you can still complete a short survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/G3BPDVB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G3BPDVB). We also left surveys at each of the tribal community and health centers for staff to handout to patients and visitors.

This is very important: we want to know about your transportation needs and issues. Are there places you would like to go that you can’t get to? Do you have any suggestions or issues? Please take the time to complete a survey. You can call Wendy

Hoffman at (906) 635-6050 to get a survey mailed to you, or stop into your local tribal center. Transportation is one of the biggest issues in our communities — please give your input.

I have received a huge volume of inquiries already asking if the tribe is offering heat assistance this year. Yes, on Nov. 1, the LIHEAP (energy heating assistance) program will open up. For more info call Viola at 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

During this two-week span, Aug. 14-28, you can stop in to any ACFS office to review their plans and give your comments, input or suggestions on LIHEAP energy assistance and CSBG block grant (energy needs).

\* I wanted to make a correction for my last unit report. I mentioned in less than four years time, the tribal debt of \$28 million will be eliminated. It should have read the “EXTERNAL” tribal debt of \$28 million will be eliminated. The Gaming Authority debt (external debt) balance at the end of July is \$21,166,666; monthly payments on the debt is \$541,666.67.

Thank you,  
Denise Chase, vice chair  
(906) 322-3819  
[dchase@saulttribe.net](mailto:dchase@saulttribe.net).