

# Board approved temporary wheelchair ramps



**DENISE CHASE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Director Morrow and I sponsored the following 2015-29 resolution that was added to the last board meeting to purchase \$15,000 worth of temporary portable ramps to assist the elders and handicapped by making it easier to get in and out of their homes until they are able to get a permanent ramp put in. These will be on loan under the elders program's durable medical equipment, so please make contact with the elders program for more information at (888) 711-7356 or 635-4971.

*RESOLUTION NO: 2015-29  
TEMPORARY PORTABLE  
WHEELCHAIR RAMPS AND  
BEDRAILS*

*WHEREAS, the board of directors recognizes a pressing need for temporary portable wheelchair ramps to be available for short-term occasional use by low-income tribal elders; and*

*WHEREAS, the Elder Health Program (cost center #9090), manages funds that can be used for the purpose of providing durable medical equipment; and*

*WHEREAS, the board has determined that it is appropriate to use this budget to acquire temporary portable wheelchair ramps that can be loaned to qualified low income tribal elders on a short-term basis.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby appropriates up to \$15,000 in tribal support to be added to the Elder Health Care Program for the purpose of acquiring no less than three temporary portable wheelchair ramps which the program shall loan on a temporary, short-term basis to qualifying low income*

*elders in cases residing within the tribe's service area in cases deemed medically necessary.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to add an additional \$5,000 in tribal support to the Elder Health Care Program and add bedrails to the durable medical list, totaling \$20,000 to the Elder Health Care Program from tribal support.*

The board appropriated a total of \$243,950 for the fiscal year 2015 governmental buildings capital purchases budget, which will come from other revenues/fund balance. The approved amount covers about 17 buildings and various priority projects that the tribe owns. The Manistique community building is one of the buildings identified for some needed repairs to the roof, exterior lights and an upgrade to the heating/cooling in the pharmacy area.

On March 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Manistique community center a Parenting Awareness Month activity will be held to promote awareness, education and provide resources. This activity will also emphasize the importance of effective parenting in nurturing your children, a table of

parenting materials and education pamphlets will be provided for parents and caregivers.

Activities planned for children and parents will be a cakewalk, craft table, face painting, coloring contest, door prizes and snacks.

They are looking for donations of cakes for the cakewalk. If you would like to donate one, please call 341-6993 or drop off the day of the event. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a Escanaba area "Caring For Our Elders" winter powwow on Feb. 21 at the Ruth Butler Building on the U.P. State Fair Grounds in Escanaba, Mich. For more information, call (906) 241-8264.

Heat assistance:

The LIHEAP Crisis Energy Assistance is still available through Sept. 30 or as long as funding is available. Funding is on a first come, first served basis.

Crisis Energy offers financial assistance to tribal members who fall in one or more categories of these groups: elders age 60+, disabled or household with a child aged 5 or below. Income eligibility guidelines apply for the crisis

program.

The Elders' Heating Assistance Program was designed to assist the elderly population age 60+ who are ineligible for LIHEAP energy assistance. Elders' heating is available Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, as long as funding is available. Applicants are required to meet the program eligibility criteria guidelines.

For more information or to apply, call Viola Neadow at 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

The board authorized the tribal transportation program to apply for a tribal transit program funding grant. If approved, the funding would be used to implement transportation coordination with local transit agencies or to implement tribal transit throughout our seven-county service area. If approved the grant would allow for start up, replacement or expansion of transportation. If approved the grant would be for \$350,000 a year for two years.

If you need to reach me, call me at my new phone number: (906) 203-2471.

Thank you,  
Denise Chase, vice-chair