

Reduced funds impacts 2 percent availability



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

Unit IV, 2 percent short term

We have not finalized the 2 percent fall distribution requests yet. We are waiting on a final dollar number to work with. There is a longterm 2 percent agreement that has expired and the board needs to discuss. I am hoping that this funding can be shared evenly with all units. The outcome of this discussion will decide if we get either \$61,000 or \$65,000 to distribute in this cycle.

There are so many good projects to consider. We received 12 requests this time, we have seen, in the past, up to 40 applications. Unfortunately, the casino revenues have decreased causing less

2 percent funding for distribution. We have had requests totaling \$164,197 to be considered this cycle. Projects are awarded funding based on a number of factors — availability of funds at the end of each cycle, the project merit and potential benefit to tribal as well as governmental communities. I will update you in the next article on projects awarded.

2013 tribal census survey

You should have received a tribal census survey in the mail by now. Unfortunately, there was not enough thought put into the timeline to allow members in the western end and in other states to receive the snail mail. Households did not receive their surveys until Oct. 25 or later.

The problem with that is the surveys needed to be returned by Oct. 25 to be eligible for one of five cash prizes, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$750, \$500 and \$250.

The board liaison was notified by a huge number of tribal members that they did not get their surveys and she contacted the tribal administration office. So then it was decided to extend the return date of survey until Nov. 15. So if you got the survey late and didn't fill it out because of the expired return date, it's not too late to send in your survey and you will be eligible for the

cash drawings. Unfortunately, there is probably a large number of households who threw the surveys away because of receiving them late and on or after the date they were supposed to be returned. If you still have them, I urge you to complete and send in. This will help with identifying the needs throughout our tribal membership. An example would be we are always told we don't have enough children for the expansion of a Head Start program or tribal school into the outlying areas. Make sure your children and grandchildren 18 years of age and younger are enrolled and have their tribal cards.

The tribe paid over \$130,000 to have the IGA (Innovative Gaming Solutions) come and do an efficiency audit on two areas in the Casinos: 1) Kewadin Casino food operations and 2) Kewadin marketing.

They identified in their written action plan priority levels, area of concern, risk and recommendations. The board of directors met with the COO of Kewadin Casinos and reviewed the recommendations by IGA. They gave him a timeline by which he was supposed to report back to board with his action plan. Tony came back with a plan of action, which included a timeline of how he

would implement his changes based on decreased revenue, and to trend staffing based on revenue and seasonal down times. The recommendations being made are administrative decisions by the COO of our casinos.

The board passed the following FY 2014 Budget Document 002 and Document 003 Resolution on Oct. 31:

Resolution No: 2013-239

Be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves FY 2014 Budget Document 002 and Document 003 totaling \$91,967,061 of which \$17,163,452 comes from Tribal Support; and

Be it further resolved, that if sequestration results in an additional cut to federal funding levels the Board of Directors shall reduce the federal funding commensurately; and

Be it further resolved, that on or before Nov. 19, 2013, budget modifications of federal funding levels of at least 5% shall be prepared for review by the Board of Directors; and

Be it further resolved, that no new job positions, step increases, cost of living increases, promotions, changes in job title, or changes in job responsibility that would affect wages (except for

Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Child Care Center commitments to raise teachers and aides who meet their educational credentials) may be granted except by a budget modification resolution approved by the Board of Directors at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors:

Be it finally resolved, that budget modifications shall automatically be in effect to reflect the rescissions in the foregoing resolve sections and shall be reported to the Board.

The board came to a consensus to approve the FY 2014 budget to allow programs to continue their operations. We have been going over budgets line by line and we will continue to make adjustments as needed. My main concern and priority is to keep the core set of services then go from there.

We will be starting to organize and plan for our children's Christmas parties. Any volunteers can call Viola or Rita at 341-6993.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

You can contact me at any time at (906) 322-3819 or dchase@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Denise Chase, vice chair