

Working on 2015 budgets keeping board busy



**KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I would like to take this time to thank the Unit I voters for your support and confidence in me to represent you for the next four years. I would like to thank Deb Pine, DJ Malloy and Joan (Carr) Anderson for their dedication and service to our tribe.

The last couple of months have been very busy. It has been a pleasure meeting the program managers, front line workers and tribal members.

We have been busy working on the 2015 budget. Adjusting to the downward turn in the economy is a challenge. Federal dollars have

been cut because of sequestration and our expenses keep going up, therefore planning for the future is essential to our tribe.

We continue to pay down our northern debt, which was incurred by Greektown, and have been informed if we stay the course it will be paid off in approximately 3.5 years. Once our debt is paid down, we will have more access to tribal support dollars, which could be used to expand services and enhance the ones that we already have in place.

Right now, I am working on a

plan that will include the elders and the youth in our community. Our first step is to plan a meeting between the elders and the youth to see what ideas they would like to work on. While at the elder luncheon this week, it was brought to their attention that we have high school students who are homeless or become homeless during the school year. I think this was an eye opener to some of them and shows a clear need in our area.

I would like to congratulate all of our scholarship winners and wish them the best in their future

endeavors and extend a big thank you to Noah Leask of Cheboygan for his generous donation to our scholarship program.

In closing, I would like to recognize Bob Menard of Marquette for his many years of service and commitment to the elders. Bob has resigned from the Unit V Elders Committee in order to care for his wife. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have questions, please give me a call at (906) 630-1930.

Thanks,
Kim Gravelle