



## President's Fall 2012 Report

Boozhoo. I hope the new fall season brings good health and prosperity to everyone.

It's been while since my last Report to the membership. My two years as Tribal President have gone almost as quickly the sun rises and sets. I believe that together, we have achieved a lot for our people. I worked hard to bring unification and transparency to our Tribal Government. Do I need to strengthen these two qualities further? Yes. Looking back, I realize that I must be more transparent and open to the membership.

Many ideas have come across my desk and we have had some major accomplishments in two years. I will discuss these in further detail, but first let me say that the upcoming elections bring forth community members who want to challenge our leaders, including me. Elections urge leaders to look at their accomplishments and improve on certain areas. We can talk about all of the negative wrongdoings that have taken place in recent years, but it's for the benefit of everyone to also move forward. I hope you vote with your heart and visions for the future, and that you know about the candidates. There are a lot of good candidates who will work hard for you. It's your choice to go to the polls and make your mark.

**BOND ISSUE** That is ongoing issue. We are working to resolve this and we have a group of Class A attorneys representing our Tribe in the lawsuit instituted against us over a year ago. We hope to have this issue come to an end. I haven't forgotten who put us in these positions. We're going to make sure their actions don't go without consequences. An ongoing investigation is taking place.

**SHULLSBURG** The recent referendum regarding developing the land in Shullsburg passed, and we will now proceed with that venture. It's something that the people of Lac du Flambeau and Shullsburg want. The contributions to the economies of both communities would be numerous. A casino in Shullsburg would generate almost twice the revenue that LOTC presently generates. I will keep you informed as Phase 1 unfolds.

**ELGIN** One year ago we completed the razing of the Elgin property (formerly the Simpson plant). Today it's a lawn surrounded by a fence, and a sign on the fence reads "No Trespassing- Indian Lands". I hope to take another opportunity to sit down with the city of Elgin officials to decide what we can do with that piece of property.

**Lac du Flambeau Band  
of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians**

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**HOUSING** We have many housing issues yet.. we're working to solve these problems as we speak today. Almost every day I hear from someone saying "I need a house", and we work vigorously to assist them.

I've advocated for creating a home where our elders can reside, heal, and return home. This home would also be designated as a place where elders returning to Lac du Flambeau can stay. A place like this is needed, and I will keep you updated.

**AODA** We still have our AODA problems. Keep in mind that we have counselors at the Family Resource Center, and other people in the community who are sober and willing to help. The Tribe purchased an 8 bedroom home on the north end of Pokegama Lake that was turned over to the Family Resource Center. It's been full since it opened. We've had young people who were fresh out of treatment, and homeless. Flo Ninham is working with them to maintain their sobriety in a living environment that offers support.

**EDUCATION** Joni Theobald has been working hard to make sure community colleges are doing their best to educate our students. For the very first time our tribal government put their money where their mouth is and made a commitment of over 1 million dollars to work with struggling college students. Hopefully that will continue with help from our funding. We have a driving license program, and thanks to Joni and her staff, we have purchased a vehicle so the young people can get their license without going to Rhinelander or Minocqua. We're also talking about creating an Ojibwe Immersion school for young students, where they speak nothing but Ojibwe. We are looking into building a field house- a youth athletic/recreation center- near the Grade school that would bring athletic activities for our young people and prepare them for high school and college athletics. Physical activity is important for young people to lead a healthy lifestyle.

**ICW** To help our Indian Child Welfare program, we added more people into the program as staff.

**DENTAL CLINIC** The Dental Clinic is expected to come to fruition by January. It will bring the best dental services for our people. It will have a training facility for our young people if they want to pursue a career in that field. We hope to have Native dentists and hygienists working in our Dental clinic within the next 10 years. It hasn't been a very easy endeavor. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding its completion. It will be a 10 million dollar, state of the art project upon completion. Paco Fralick has done an extraordinary job, and has done well under a lot of pressure.

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE** We're helping some of our Tribal members who lack proper drinking water/sanitation in their homes- we have to make sure these problems are fixed before winter sets in.

**LAND MANAGEMENT** We've purchased a multitude of properties on the reservation. Land

Management is in the process of picking up 100 acres of land near Trout and Rice lakes, designated for Wilderness Protection-where hunting areas are diminishing because of population increase within reservation boundaries. I would like to see a camp for our young people on this property, and getting our community members involved in building it.

**COMMUNICATIONS** I have been talking to leaders of other Tribes who agree that we need to reinvest in the Public Relations position. It is needed in this community to show the Tribal government's transparency and manage the flow of information between the Council, membership and outside communities.

We have installed new fiber optic lines and we're looking forward to turning them on in October . Our telecommunications will now work at top speed. This will help bring us into the 21st century world of technology.

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** We formed a Business Committee to focus on non-gaming business opportunities. This business committee will be a Native owned corporation under the umbrella of the Tribe. Some of the ideas being considered include a partnership with CADDO Solutions- a Native-owned company similar to Staples business supply stores. We also have a relationship blossoming with a payday advance loan company. If it is created, it will be housed here in LDF. The company would provide high interest loans for people living outside of Wisconsin (with revenues generated from the interest). Two tribes in other states have generated revenues up to \$200,000 a month from similar companies. We received a grant for \$150,000 from the Shakopee tribe for Economic Development. Our Business Development Director, Brent McFarland, is overseeing its administration.

If you have questions or would like more information about these issues, feel free to ask your legislators on the Tribal Council as well.

It's my decision to run for another term as your president. I'm getting up there in years- like other elders, I would like to spend more time with my grandkids and enjoy the community. It's a very demanding position. Over the last two years I received over 2500 phone calls and emails, which puts me constantly on the go. But, that's what it takes to be a leader today. NOBODY is going to come forward and bring outside opportunities to LDF or let the Government know about the problems we have. We need to travel, to go and knock on doors and remind the Federal Government of their mandate; that they have a fiduciary obligation- written in the treaties- to the Indian People. Treaty rights are listed in Article Six of the US Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land.

As people walk into the Community Center, the sign on my door says "People's Office" and that's a befitting name. It's an open door for anyone to come knock on, and ask for my time.

Miigwetch.

Sincerely, Tom Maulson