



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

From: Marcella Reyes

Date: February 10-11, 2015

Re: United Tribes of Michigan – Lansing, MI

I arrived in Lansing on Tuesday, February 25th, 2015 and departed on Wednesday, February 26th, 2015

I attended the Annual United Tribes of MI Legislative Reception on Tuesday evening. Senator Dave Walker spoke to the Legislative Leader & myself as well as the group as a whole regarding his support of the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver and his concerns for the program if budgetary cuts continue.

I also spoke with Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood who shared his commentary in opposition to the Lake Huron Nuclear Waste Facility project, which could greatly endanger the water quality of the Great Lakes, and the main drinking water intakes for southeast Michigan.

The following day began at 8:00am with an opening ceremony with presentation of flags & an opening prayer.

There was an Executive Board Meeting held for election of Secretary. During this time, our Chairman Fred Kiogima was elected to the position of Secretary.

The day's first invited speaker was Maura Corrigan. The following are accomplishments & statistics during her 38 months as Michigan Department of Human Services Director.

- Adoption rate is currently at 90%.
- Foster care age increased to 21 years of age to improve transition & encourage college enrollment.
- Enhanced child safety.
- Program available for propane shortage in the UP, call 211 or local DHS to access.

The first resolution on the agenda was a response to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's recent statements. Former Chairman Wesaw shared with the attendees his recent meeting with Mr. Patterson, presented a letter of apology & a map of the Michigan tribes. The resolution passed.

A legal update was provided by Brian Pierson of Godfrey & Kahn, he stressed the need for tribes to explore renewable energy.

Melissa Claramunt provided the MDCR report regarding the tuition waiver. Statistics & information were provided (see handouts).

After lunch Bill Sulinckus from FEMA did a presentation & discussion on Draft FEMA Consultation Policy. (web address provided: tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov)

Peter Vicaire from Veterans Affairs discussed interest free monies, upwards of \$400K, available for Native American Veterans to purchase homes on trust land. There was discussion about available monies for third party reimbursements to tribal health clinics for medical services provided. He provided his email address for additional questions or information:
Peter.Vicaire@VA.gov

