



POKÉGNEK BODÉWADMİK POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI  
2013 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



Pokégnek Bodéwadmik (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) will respectfully promote and protect the culture, dignity, education, health, welfare and self-sufficiency of our elders, our youth, our families and our future generations while preserving Mother Earth. We will strive to give Pokagon citizens a better quality of life. The Band will also strive for successful economic strength thus assuring the sovereignty of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

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# Letter from the chairman

Boozhoo Pokagon Band Citizens.

It is a great honor and privilege to share the 2013 annual report. As Chairman, I'm happy to report that your Tribal Council has tirelessly been working, along with Pokagon staff, to continue our commitment to sustain and enhance the services you as citizens rightfully deserve and expect. As we closed out 2013, it's with great pride and appreciation that the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians has been dearly blessed.

2013 was a great year when it came to adding housing for tribal citizens. There were eight-duplexes, four-unit townhouses creating an additional 32 new family units. The additional units bring the housing stock for Edawat to a total of 66 family units. The new housing units were finished on time and on budget and are presently occupied.

Please join me in saying chi migwetch to Tribal Council, Pokagon staff, Pokagon Health Board, and Finance Board, including Mno-Bmadsen-owned 7Gen, for the hard work leading up to the ground breaking of our Pokagon Wellness Center. When completed the total build out will be 36,000 square feet, and include a physical therapy area, wellness area with a therapy pool, nine examination rooms, a pharmacy, behavioral health, optical, and a dental suite. The new clinic will be a convenient one-stop shop for your health care needs.

In April Four Winds Casino Dowagiac had its grand opening. It created additional jobs for tribal citizens,

including many construction jobs many of our tribal citizens participated in. Please show your appreciation to those that have helped our casino operations be so successful over the last seven years. Their hard work and efforts help support the programs and services for our tribal government which have a direct impact on tribal citizens.

The Pokagon Band was the host of the Potawatomi Gathering with over 2,800 registered attendees. All the tribal leaders from the different Bands of Potawatomi met for an information summit. Points of discussions were donations, consolidated buying power with vendors, cross training interns between tribes, tribally owned banks, Supreme Court issues in Indian Country. Gun Lake Potawatomi will be hosting the 2014 Potawatomi Gathering.

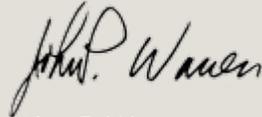
The Pokagon Band non-gaming economic charter, Mno Bmadsen, is working hard to develop new non-gaming businesses for the tribe. Mno Bmadsen's 7Gen, an architecture firm, recently received its 8(a) status, which will enable 7Gen to have an edge when bidding on government contracts. Bent Tree Market, the tribal convenience store that opened December next to the Four Winds Casino in Dowagiac, has been well received from the public and tribal citizens. Accu-Mold, another tribal business, located in Portage, Michigan, is thriving and is looking to expand operations in 2014.

Tribal council and Pokagon Gaming Authority 2013-2014 (left to right): Steven Winchester, member at Large and Board member; Carl Wesaw, Elders Representative and Board member; Faye Wesaw, Secretary; Trudy Loeding, member at Large and Board member; John P. Warren, Chairman and CEO; Bob Moody, Jr., Vice-Chairman and Vice President; Roger Rader, member at Large and Board member; Marie Manley-Harwood, member at Large and Board member; Tom Topash, Acting Treasurer; inset: Thomas Wesaw, member at Large and Board member.

The South Bend tribal office was opened in the spring, and the land into trust process has been moving through the Bureau of Indians Affairs at a fair pace. It is hoped the South Bend property will go into trust in early 2015, which will enable the Pokagon Band to have our first sovereign land base in Indiana since the 1800s, giving the Pokagon Band opportunities to expand our economic development, create housing, and other tribal services for our citizens in the future.

Finally, as we look forward to 2014 and our continued development of our tribal community, it should be with great joy. It's hard to believe that on September 21, 2014 it will be 20 years since President Clinton signed the Pokagon Band's reaffirmation bill reinstating the Pokagon Band's federal trust relationship with the United States government. We should be proud of the accomplishments over the past 20 years as our community has grown. With pride and humility, let's look forward to celebrating in 2014 all the good fortune we have experienced over the last two decades.

Bamamine kowabmen,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John P. Warren  
Chairman



# Treasurer's Report

Greetings Fellow Pokagon Citizens,

Once again it has been an incredibly full year for the tribe. Not only have we seen growth in many areas of construction; our governmental departments and business instrumentalities have grown as well. The steel girders outlining our Wellness Center are visible from my window today. Delivery of Pokagon health services will become a model for surrounding communities. We add government money which boosts Indian Health Service dollars into a level of care which is superior.

The Tribe completed an outdoor sports complex, remodeled former commodities and storage for Social Services use, completed 32 new units of housing, improved our road system, and is developing a culture center your families will love to visit.

In order to gain smooth running services all of our departments' directors visited with the finance board each quarter of 2013. Together, they matched progress goals with money spent.

The Tribal business instrumentality, Mno Bmadsen, received financial support from the tribe, but is only a few short years from self-sufficiency in all of its holdings (Accu-Mold Plastic Fabricators, 7 Gen Architecture and Engineering, and the gas station/convenience store beside the Dowagiac Casino). Congratulations to 7 Gen on its government contracting. This is huge.

Our casinos fund three categories of growth for the tribe. The Revenue Allocation Plan (how we divide the money) is now 57% for dividends/per capita, 38% to supplement governmental services, and 5% for economic development. The Finance Board has worked tirelessly to assure that these funds are put to maximum use. The balance sheets are strong; however, there are no excess dollars. The goal to build a cultural center, a tribal lodge, a new Tribal Court and the Wellness Center had to be scaled back to just a Wellness Center for 2014. The other buildings remain on the drawing boards.

Unlike most per capita tribes, the Pokagons have continued to increase the size of the per capita payments each year. This is because we have continued to grow so rapidly by adding the two new casinos and re-investing in the flagship property in New Buffalo.

In conclusion, the major decisions made by the Tribal Council and the prudent manner in which they follow the recommendations made by the Finance Board keep the Pokagon Band as a model of economic wisdom in all of Indian Country. Indeed, the banking industry competes to work with us. It is the reason we experience the lowest interest rates and receive excellent services. Independent auditors have confirmed all our finances. I hope citizens experience the satisfaction knowing we are part of a tribe that is so highly regarded in the world of finance.



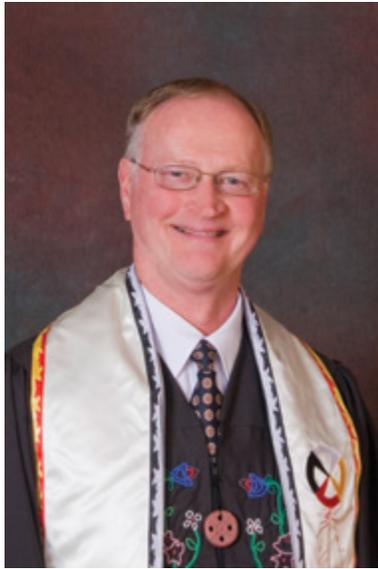
Tom Topash  
Acting Treasurer



## Tribal Judiciary



CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT T. ANDERSON



ASSOCIATE JUDGE DAVID M. PETERSON



CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL PETOSKEY



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE JILL E. TOMPKINS



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER

The Judiciary is an independent branch of government established by the Constitution of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. The Tribal Court system consist of two levels: the trial level (Tribal Court) and the appellate level (Court of Appeals).

The Tribal Court Judges are: Chief Judge Michael Petoskey (Grand Traverse Band) and Associate Judge David M. Peterson, retired 5th District Court Judge for Berrien County, Michigan and practicing Michigan attorney.

The Court of Appeals Justices are: Chief Justice Robert T. Anderson (Bois Forte Band), Professor of Law and Director of the Native American Law Center, University of Washington

School of Law; Associate Justice Jill E. Tompkins (Penobscot), Senior Director of the Indian Child Welfare Programs at Casey Family Programs; and Associate Justice Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band), Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Michigan State University College of Law.

### **ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF TRIBAL COUNCIL AND THE JUDICIARY**

Each year Tribal Council and the Judiciary, as separate branches of tribal government, meet face-to-face to collaborate in order to ensure that the needs of the Band, as a sovereign nation, and its citizens are met. Each updates the other on its accomplishments over the preceding year and

shares information about its work in progress, needs and future plans. It has been an exemplary best governmental practice and tradition.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COURT**

The work of the Court involves:

(1) meeting the needs of the Tribal government because it is a federally-recognized sovereign nation; and (2) providing an independent, fair forum for resolving disputes, conflicts and adherence to Tribal standards. Some of the duties and responsibilities are mandated by the Tribal Constitution. Other duties are the results of laws passed by Tribal Council. Yet other duties are the product of court rules, administrative orders and the inherent authority of the Judiciary as a branch of government. The Court meets these responsibilities by: (1) establishing general rules of practice and procedure before the courts; (2) collaborative governmental development for the implementation of the laws of the Band, Court Rules and Administrative Orders; and (3) the judicial processing of actual cases transferred or filed in the courts.

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Constitution mandates that the

Court of Appeals establish and amend general rules for practice, procedure and evidence in the Tribal Court and Court of Appeals. Court rules provide standard process and procedures: (1) for the practice before the Tribal courts; and (2) the judicial processing of cases.

### **COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

There must be collaboration to provide good working justice systems. Working together helps to educate and proactively plan. The Chief Judge collaborated with Tribal Council, the Family Welfare Commission, the Presenting Officer, the Director of Social Services, Department of Education and Pokagon Band Behavioral Health Services to ensure for the safety and placement of children. Collaboration and awareness helped to provide needed information to expand capacity in child protection matters in the area of staffing, funding and homes for children. Also, the Chief Judge has collaborated with the Elder's Council and both Youth Councils on matters of placement of children and connecting children to the Tribe.

The Chief Judge and Associate collaborated with the Tribal Chairman, Office of General Counsel, Prosecutor and Police on the special tribal

jurisdiction issues of the Violence Against Women Act.

### **CURRENT WORK OF THE COURT**

Court Rules and Administrative Order Work

Chapter 8 *Court Rules for Judicial Conduct* (Amendments by the Judiciary)

Chapter 11 *Court Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys* (Finalized in 2013)

Administrative Order 06-003-TJ:

*Tribal Court Procedures for Appeal of Membership Issues* (Amendments by the Judiciary)

### **New Project Tribal Court Improvement Project Grant**

The Pokagon Band was one of only seven tribes within the United States to be awarded an inaugural Court Improvement Project grant on October 1, 2012. Work is well underway and will continue through September 2015. The focus of this project is on the Pokagon Band child protection justice system, with three specific goals:

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of how the Tribal Court conducts child welfare proceedings and make improvements based upon the results.

2. Ensure that each child's needs for safety, permanency, and well-being are met in a timely and complete manner through the collection and analysis of data.
3. Provide for training of Tribal Court practitioners and other community stakeholders involved in child welfare cases.

To date, a number of TCIP activities have taken place. From grant funds, we hired a part-time coordinator to direct activities in the grant. Thereafter, we contracted with a very experienced team to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Pokagon child protection system. The assessment team consisted of representatives from the National Center for State Court and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

A site visit at the Pokagon Band community was held on December 8–11, 2013. It was kicked off on Sunday with a community feast at the Community Center to introduce the assessment team to the community. To properly introduce the team to the community, Mr. Clarence White conducted a pipe ceremony, and youth drummers and women drummers welcomed the team. Sixty community

members and guests attended. Over the course of the next three days, members of the assessment team were given a tour of the land and facilities, provided information about the Band and its history, and thereafter met with Band members as well as child protection system stakeholders. We are very grateful to all who gave of their time to meet with the assessment team.

The assessment team will continue the assessment during the duration of the grant. Members of the TCIP team will be working with the assessment team to finalize their report and subsequent recommendations of the child protection system's strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations for enhancement and growth. We believe it is important to not only identify areas for improvement, but to also highlight the significant work that has been done thus far to create the system we have today.

We are in the process of establishing a contract with an Information Technology consultant. This consultant will be able to assist the Tribal Court and other child protection justice system practitioners in determining the collection and sharing of information pertinent to all stakeholder entities involved in

child protection cases. We believe that information sharing will not only improve the child welfare justice system processing of cases, but will also assist Tribal Council in making data-informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources.

We will continue to keep the community informed of the progress of the grant as this is a very exciting opportunity for the Tribe. Your help is needed to fully achieve the goals of children's needs for safety, permanency and well-being. We are reaching out to our strong Pokagon community to encourage involvement as foster caregivers, respite caregivers and mentors to ensure that the culture of the Pokagon Band flourishes in our youth.

#### **Judicial Processing of Cases**

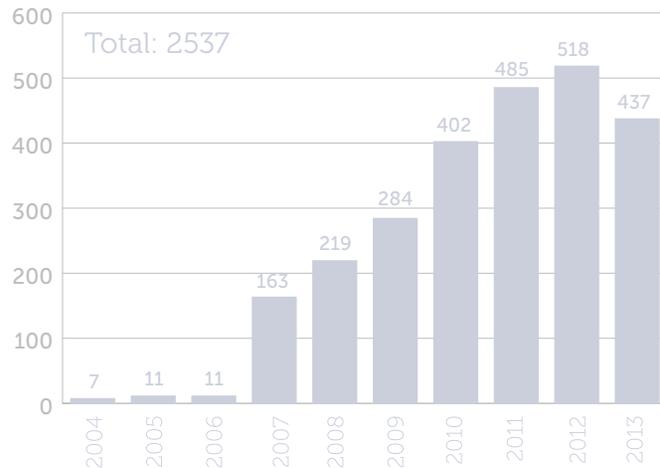
The Pokagon Band Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction. Tribal Court continues to develop with growth in the community. The Judiciary and court personnel are committed to providing a court system that reflects the values, culture and spirit of Pokagon Band Tribal community.

The Court's inception began in 2003. After the development of the Courthouse, appointment of judges

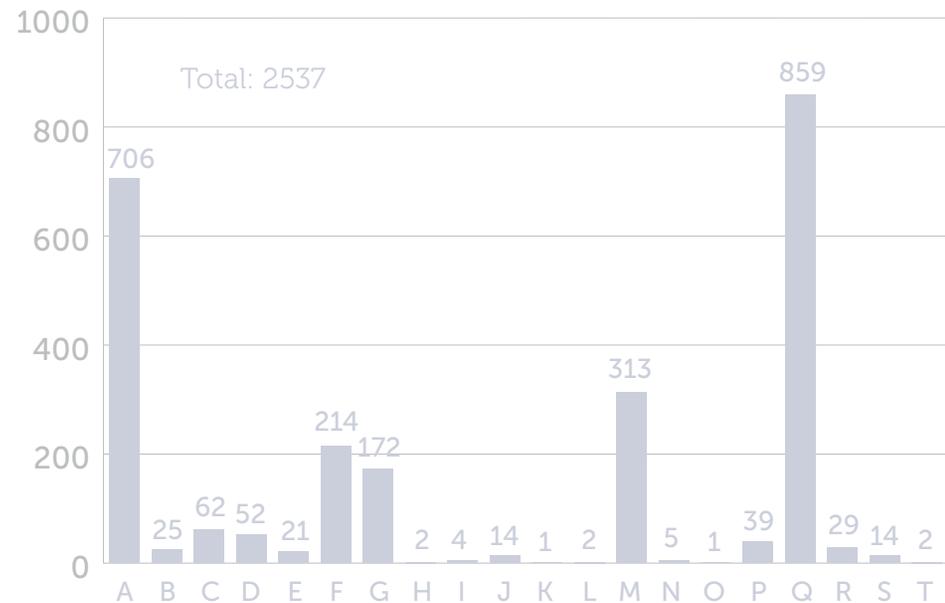
and initial infrastructure, the first case was filed in 2004. The majority of cases in the beginning concerned child protection matters because it is important that decisions involving Tribal children be made in the Band's own court. Thus, transfer of Indian Child Welfare cases from the State court to the Band's own court was a major impetus for the development of the Tribal courts. However, with the economic development of the Pokagon Band, the Court is addressing a variety of cases which have greatly increased after the opening of the Four Winds Casino Resort.

The Court schedules and holds hearings in a variety of cases. The number of hearings scheduled has increased with the caseload of the Court. There has been a significant increase in the number of hearings for the Pokagon Band

Growth in Caseload from 2004–2013



Types of Cases Filed from 2004 to December 2013

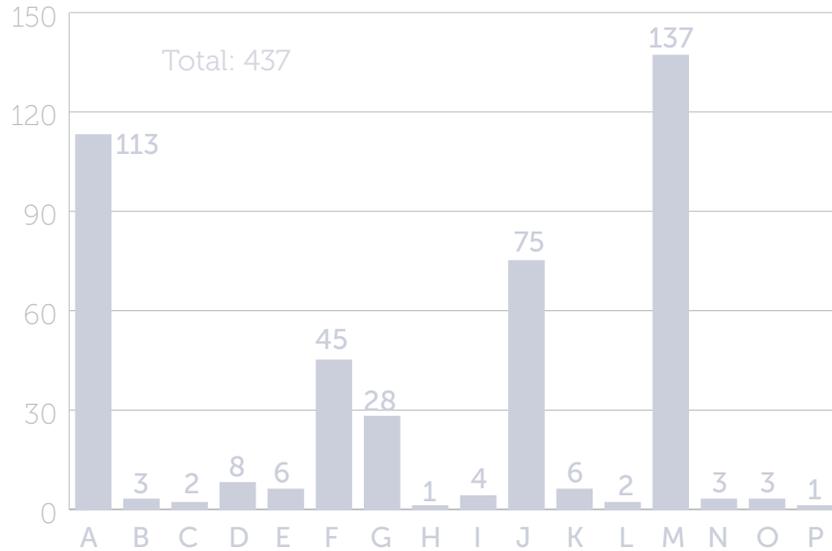


Cases filed before opening of Four Winds Casino Resort: 32

Cases filed after opening of Four Winds Casino Resort: 2505

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Child Support Recognition   | J. General Civil  |
| B. Bankruptcy Deduction  | K. Small Claims   |
| C. IRS Garnishment (including 1 HUD, 1 SSA case, 1 Department of Agriculture Case and 1 Department of Treasury Small Business Association) | L. Administrative Appeal                                |
| D. Student Loan Garnishment  | M. Per Capita Distribution for Delinquent Child Support |
| E. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Subpoena  | N. Enrollment   |
| F. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Judgment  | O. Election   |
| G. Foreign Judgment Garnishment  | P. Criminal Offense                                     |
| H. Garnishment Per Capita by Garnishment Code for Debt to Tribe  | Q. Civil Infraction                                     |
| I. Garnishment Per Capita by Garnishment Code for IRS Levy   | R. Child Protection                                     |
|  | S. Adoption   |
|  | T. Court of Appeals                                     |

Types of Cases Filed in 2013

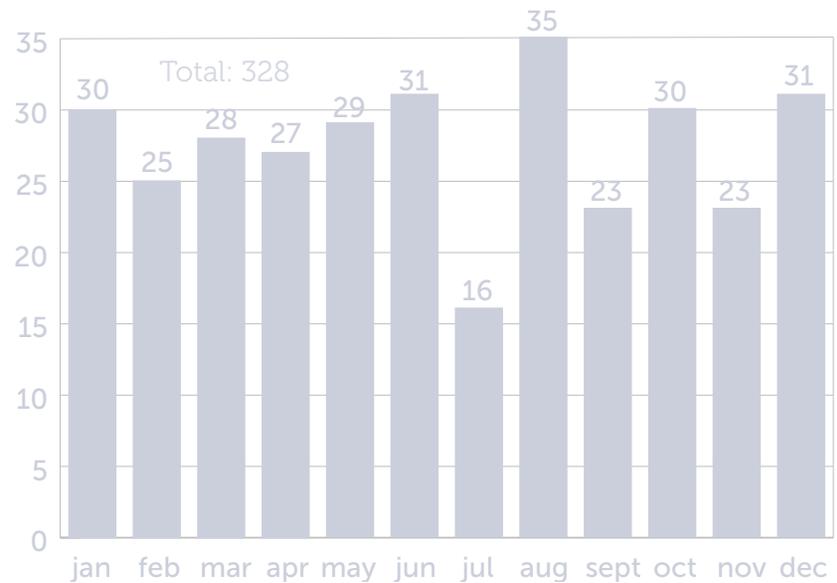


- A. Child Support Recognition
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- C. IRS Garnishment
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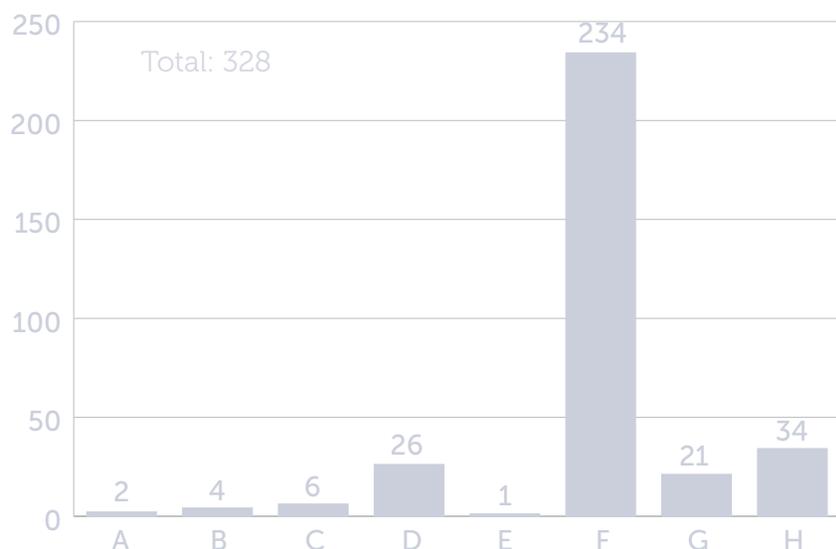
Code of Offenses matters. The Band is actively enforcing the standards of the community. Although some hearings are scheduled and may not be held primarily due to respondents entering a plea prior to a hear or for failing to appear at the hearing, Court staff must still prepare and serve the proper paperwork needed for the hearing.

Child protection hearings are the most time consuming because the best interest of children are looked at during each hearing. The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Child Protection Code directs when hearings must be held in child protection matters.

Number of Hearings and Trials Monthly



Types of Hearings and Trials Scheduled in 2013



- A. Appeal (1 Scheduling Conference, 1 Oral Argument)
- B. Foreign Judgment Recognition (Objection Hearing: 3 Held, 1 Dismissed)
- C. Foreign Judgment Garnishment (Objection Hearing: 5 Held, 1 Adjourned)
- D. Per Capita Redirection (Objection Hearing: 22 Held, 1 Rescheduled, 1 Failure to Appear, 1 Dismissed. Hearing: 1 Adjourned)
- E. General Civil (Hearing 1 Held)
- F. Civil Infraction (Initial Appearance: 25 Held, 3 Adjourned, 36 Failure to Appear, 49 Dismissed; Pre-trial Conference 4 Held; Status Conference: 1 Held, 1 Rescheduled; Review Hearing: 1 Adjourned; Restitution Determination Hearing: 1 Held, 1 Adjourned, 1 Dismissed; Show Cause Hearing: 22 Held, 6 Adjourned, 45 Failure to Appear, 23 Dismissed; Bench Warrant Show Cause Hearing: 12 Held, 2 Failure to Appear, 1 Dismissed)
- G. Criminal (Probable Cause Hearing: 1 Held; Arraignment 6 Held; Hearing 1 Held; Probation Reporting 2 Held; Probation Violation Hearing 1 Held, 3 Adjourned; 4 Pre-trial Conferences; Sentencing Hearing: 1 Held, 1 Adjourned; Bench Trial: 1 Dismissed)
- H. Child Protection (3 Transfer of Jurisdiction Hearings Held; Dispositional Review Hearing: 9 Held, 2 Adjourned, 1 Rescheduled; 1 Motion Hearing; Permanency Planning Hearing: 5 Held, 1 Rescheduled; Permanent Ward Review Hearing: 10 Held, 1 Adjourned, 1 Rescheduled, 2 Dismissed)

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Tribal Court continues to develop for the future. Goals of the Tribal Court are to:

- provide a fully functioning judicial forum for all matters heard by the Tribal Court built on the community values, culture and spirituality; and
- continue to exercise judicial authority consistent with the sovereign powers of the Band and to provide for operation as a branch of government consistent with the principles of separation of powers.

Objectives of the Court for the immediate future are the continued:

- collaboration with various branches of government, the community and service departments to provide a judicial system that is culturally appropriate to the Pokagon Band;
- enactment of chapters of court rules and administrative orders for jury selection, contempt, the expansion of recognition of foreign court warrants, subpoenas and other judicial acts and civil offense procedures to meet the increasing jurisdictional needs of the Band;
- development of culturally appropriate probationary services for diversion programs and community service programs;
- advancement of the case management system to provide for efficiency in staff's work, case flow management, data collection and generation of reports for informed decision making;
- development of further procedural processes for Court staff; and
- identification of outside resources for the development of the Tribal Court infrastructure.

Traditionally for Potawatomi, the yearly cycle begins when life blooms and is born in mnokme spring. As we reflect on 2013 in this accomplishment report, we'll start with March, when the equinox marks the balance of night and day, when warmth prevails in the struggle with cold, and when possibilities for the future year are limitless.





mnokme





Spring returns with new life, evidenced by the red maple buds, the sumac's red tops, and the brilliant shine of the sun in the morning hours.

Maple trees have long provided nourishment for Anishnabeg. Many stories tell of the value of the maple tree. Even its leaves look like a hand

reaching out to help. Many of our tools and equipment are made from this important tree.

### **Sheltering Our Children**

Tribal Court and the Department of Social Services increased efforts this year to keep Pokagon kids with tribal families. The goal is to one day license tribal foster homes; the first step in that process is to lay that foundation. So during 2013 staff started work on a database, made community connections, engaged current foster homes for retention purposes and provided foster children a connection to the tribe.

### **Smoking Cessation Begins**

Pokagon Health Services began offering tobacco cessation classes to all tribal citizens and their spouses. Led by tribal facilitators, the course followed the American Lung Association's Freedom from Smoking Program and consists of eight 90-minute sessions over a seven week period. The program utilizes three features: educate on proven and effective methods of quitting, support from the tribal community in your effort to live a smoke free, chew-free lifestyle, and assistance with tobacco cessation medications to support your success.



### Shawl Project Honors

Domestic violence is a serious concern for Native American communities, as Native American women and girls are at a greater risk of becoming victims of domestic and sexual violence than other populations. Pokagon Band's domestic violence program served numerous individuals in need of assistance in the community this year. One of the many successful outreach events for community members was the Honor Shawl Project, which honors the memory and experiences of domestic violence survivors through making dance shawls. The Honor Shawl Project provided a safe space for community members of all ages to participate in traditional teachings as a way of healing.



### Four Winds Dowagiac Opens

Four Winds Dowagiac opened to the public on Tuesday, April 30 at noon, but the weekend preceding brought Pokagons to the property to celebrate with family. Saturday and Sunday kids enjoyed games and activities while parents visited over a catered meal or a tour of the property. Then on Monday, after a ceremony, a ribbon cutting and remarks by leaders, citizens over 21 were welcomed into the casino for Pokagon live gaming day.

Four Winds Dowagiac, the Band's third gaming property, includes 300 slot machines, four table games, and a Timbers restaurant that can seat approximately 30 people.

zisbakdoké gises april



flora and fauna return, and berries bud in April. April brings cleansing rains that purify and renew the waters.





### **Traditional Pow Wow Commemorates**

The Pokagon community gathered for the fifth annual Oshke-Kno-Kewewen traditional pow wow Memorial Day weekend, honoring all the veterans of the Band and the community eagle staff they carry. Along with the traditional dancing, singing and crafts, the Department of Education gifted ten recent college graduates with blankets to celebrate their achievements.



Pokagon youth invited elders to a Detroit Tigers game.



### **Indiana Office Opens**

The Pokagon Band tribal government opened its new location in South Bend in May. Business conducted at the former office in Mishawaka now takes place on the Band's property at 3733 Locust Street on the city's southwest side. The building, a residence built in the 1920s, underwent extensive renovations in preparation for it to be used daily as a government office, gathering place and satellite to the main administrative office in Dowagiac. Pokagon grounds and facilities crews worked hard to improve the house, and continue a high standard of maintenance on the property.

Departments often host language classes, drumming workshops and other community development initiatives there.

# niben

JUNE welcomes summer, with long days for working and celebrating. Powwow life is in full swing, travelling through communities. Fishing and waterways are bountiful.

JULY remembers our veterans, and prepares for rice camps.

AUGUST harvests, plays lacrosse, and gathering families together.





## DEMEN GISES JUNE

### Culture Camp Engages

Forty-four junior campers and 34 middle and high school campers enjoyed cultural activities and other fun camp activities during their time at camp at Rodgers Lake June 14–22. Former campers and members of the Youth Councils served as counselors and engaged a new generation of Pokagon campers in their tribe and its culture.

"We had a lot of positive responses," said Dean Orvis, youth cultural coordinator. "The biggest complaint was that it didn't last long enough. Campers said they enjoyed learning the language and making new friends, and that they wanted more archery, lacrosse, and warrior games."



### Four Winds Invitational Excites

Thanks to the Pokagon Band, June 21–23 proved to be a great weekend for golf fans in Michiana. Future LPGA stars appeared at the annual Symetra Tour stop, and according to most, this year's Four Winds Invitational was a first-class event. It didn't hurt that a cliff hanger ending made Sunday's final round extra exciting.

Cydney Clanton won the Invitational, but only after ten-foot birdie putt on the seventh playoff hole. The players on the Symetra Tour proved to be great ambassadors for the game, especially during their Junior Golf Clinics Wednesday and Thursday before the weekend. Kids were encouraged to come out, work with the pros and learn a few golf fundamentals.

Players last year voted this stop the best on the whole Symetra Tour, and staff at Blackthorn Golf Club made sure this year's event was equally impressive. The Pokagon Band presented a donation of \$56,500 to Memorial Children's Hospital from proceeds of the 2013 Four Winds Invitational. The donation will be used to purchase a neonatal incubator transport unit for Memorial Children's Hospital's MedFlight helicopter program.





### **South Dakota Trip Enriches**

The Pokagon Band Elders enjoyed their trip to the South Dakota Black Hills and Badlands. They departed June 17 from the Pokagon Community Center in a motor coach and returned June 25. Along the way they saw the Crazy Horse monument and experienced the region's beautiful natural surroundings.

"The highlight for most Elders was a personal tour by Daryl, an Oglala Sioux. He and a friend were our guides on the Pine Ridge Reservation," said Petey Boehm, elders specialist. "Seeing the Badlands was more beautiful on the reservation side. We saw their burial grounds and much, much more."



## Abtenib gises July

### Wellness Center Site Plan Approved

Tribal Council approved moving forward with a new Wellness Center at the Rodgers Lake campus. The Wellness Center will be approximately 36,000 square feet, and plans call for it to be framed by spring. If all goes well, the facility is expected to be open by late fall 2014 to provide improved health care and wellness opportunities.

### Summer School Roots Students in Homeland

The Pokagon Band Summer School, held July 8 through August 1, adopted "Where We Live" as the theme for 2013. Forty-four students in grades kindergarten through sixth gather at the Head Start building to focus on strengthening the core subjects of reading, math, and science in the morning. Then in the afternoon they learn about language and culture through games and crafts.



## Youth Unify

Twelve junior youth council members and five adult chaperones spent several days in Los Angeles at the UNITY conference. UNITY is a national organization fostering the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Youth attended workshops and talks led by young Native American leaders from around the country, and participated in a talent show, team building activities and sports tournaments.



## Water Quality Program continues

The Ezh N’bamendamem Nibi Project | How We Think about Caring for the Water paired the Pokagon Band Departments of Natural Resources, Education, and Language and Culture for water education activities and quality testing with students in the K–12 Program. Native people have always greatly respected water, and the project passes on this value to youth. Summer school students studied in the classroom setting and in field throughout the month of July.



## minké qises august

Almost of year of preparation and planning culminated August 5–10 at the annual Potawatomi Gathering, hosted by the Pokagon Band in Dowagiac. All of the Potawatomi nations from the United States were represented. Present were: the Citizens Potawatomi Nation – Shawnee, Oklahoma; Forest County Potawatomi Community – Crandon, Wisconsin; Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community – Wilson, Michigan; Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi – Fulton, Michigan; Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of

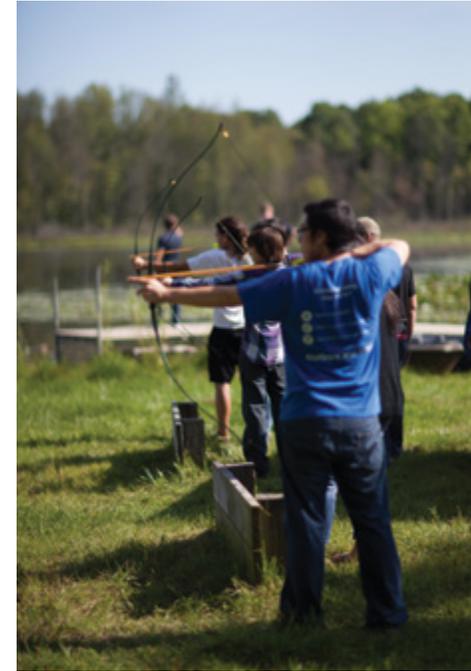
Pottawatomi Indians – Dorr, Michigan; Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – Mayetta, Kansas; and the Pokagon Band. Two Potawatomi Nations from Canada were present: Walpole Island First Nation – Walpole Island, Ontario and Wasauksing First Nation – Parry Sound, Ontario.

During the Gathering participants could attend the language, domestic violence or youth conferences, or one of the many workshops to learn black ash basket making, pottery and drum making.

Elected officials met at Four Winds New Buffalo to discuss common concerns of Potawatomi people, such as health care, language preservation and culture.

“The one high point for me was seeing the large assembling of elected officials from the various Potawatomi bands meet. Just seeing 67 officials in one room talking about things common to us was very exciting,” said John Warren, Pokagon Band chairman. “We said we need to do this more than one time per year.”





september is huckleberry harvest season.

Fall ceremonies, harvest of crops, preparations for sugarbush and ghost feasts make up october.

november gathers wood for winter, and the community prepares for rest and cold.



dqwaqé



## zawboqya gises september

If it's September, it's time for two key events at Pokagon Band: the Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow and Sovereignty Day.

### **Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow Celebrates**

2013 marked the twenty-eighth year that the Pokagon Band has hosted the Labor Day contest pow wow named for the end of the huckleberry picking season. Dancers from around the Great Lakes and around the country, plus visitors from all over the region, gather for native dancing, drumming, crafts and cultural activities. And few leave without enjoying corn soup, fry bread or another native dish. This year more youngsters took advantage of lacrosse games or basketball pickups on the newly-finished sports complex. The event has come a long way from when it was once held at St. Patrick's County Park in Indiana prior to 2007.



### **Sovereignty Day Marks Independence**

September 21 commemorates the day that President Bill Clinton signed the Pokagon Band's reaffirmation bill into law in 1994. On the nineteenth anniversary of that pivotal event,

citizens and staff celebrated at Rodgers Lake with a feast, activities and a group photo.

### **Housing Opens**

Thirty-two Pokagon families moved into their new duplexes and townhomes in Pokégnek Édawat in Dowagiac, showing Band's commitment to providing affordable housing, economic development and increased self-sufficiency for its citizens. The additional 32 new homes bring the total to 66 homes in the Village. Part of the workforce that built the new homes came from a Pokagon Band Carpenter Apprenticeship Program.





## MIEA Conference Shows Pride

Nearly 180 elders from around the state attended the conference of the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) at Four Winds New Buffalo in October. This is the second time the Pokagons have hosted the tri-annual conference, but the first time attendees were able to stay, meet and eat at Four Winds.



Delegates discussed the MIEA student incentive and college scholarship programs, which is the bulk of MIEA's expenses and operations. This year they awarded six \$500 scholarships and one \$1000 scholarship to native college students from a Michigan tribe. The incentive program awards \$25 for native K-12 students from a Michigan tribe who



achieve all A's or perfect attendance for a marking period.

After lunch the attendees participated in a live auction of art—baskets, pottery, jewelry and other items—donated from each of the member tribes. The money raised—more than \$2,500—help with the scholarships and student awards.

## GIWSE GISES november

### **Lego League Inspires**

Six Pokagon students, ages 9–14, traveled to Grandville, Michigan in November to compete against Lego League teams from all over western and southwestern Michigan. 2013's theme was Nature's Fury, which dealt with extreme weather situations. Each team was responsible for three areas: the Project, the Robot Game, and the First LEGO League Core Values. The Project required teams to research natural disasters and to create an invention that helps before, during, or after a severe weather situation occurs. The teams built a model of our invention and wrote and performed a skit to introduce their idea at the competition.

Competition Day was long but well worth everyone's efforts. The kids had worked together as a team in all aspects during the months and it showed. The robot had several technical difficulties and the invention prototype broke during presentation, but the kids persevered, repaired, and continued on like champions. The judges recognized the team's great attitude and awarded them the Against All Odds trophy.





### **Conservation Officer Expands Reach**

Officer Kevin Modlin assumed his new role as the Pokagon conservation officer in the fall. Modlin, who has been with the Police Department since 2009, will patrol tribal trust lands enforcing the Band's conservation laws, citizens' hunting, fishing and gathering rights, and off road vehicle use.

A grant from the Administration for Native Americans provides fifty percent of the conservation officer's yearly salary for two years, and after that the position will be covered by the Police Department's annual operating budget.

Modlin has responded to complaints of trespassing and illegal logging and has removed some unmarked tree stands and trapping lines. Although he will react to any calls, the majority of his proactive patrol time will be focused in Cass and Van Buren Counties, where most hunting, gathering and fishing happens.



24

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2013

**Bbon**

mother earth sleeps. inside it's time for storytelling and community.





## Bbon gises december

This time of year is the season to gather together, share stories and feasts, and celebrate family and community. Whether at the Round Dance, the annual children's movie party, or the Senior Youth Council Christmas party, Pokagon Band kept busy as 2013 came to a close.

### **Shop with a Cop Helps Make Happy Holidays for Pokagon Kids**

Officers with the Pokagon Tribal Police Department, staff of the Language and Culture Department, and the Cass County Sheriffs Department K-9 unit made the holiday brighter for a few Pokagon youth. The Elders Council and the Youth Councils each donated \$500 for the kids to shop for holiday gifts for their families at the Niles Wal-Mart, which generously provided cookies, punch and a visit with Santa. Officers accompanied the youth on their shopping spree, lending a positive interaction with law enforcement.

### **Pokagons March in the Dowagiac Candlelight Christmas Parade**

The Language and Culture department created a Christmas float and invited Pokagon and Head Start children to participate in the annual Dowagiac Christmas parade Friday, December 6. The department also encouraged the children to create an "ugly" Christmas sweater and provided kits—along with little bowties, hair bows, and Santa hats—for children 8 years or younger. More than 40 Pokagon children rode on or walk alongside the float and passed out candy to parade viewers.

## 2nd Annual Youth Council Christmas Party Brings Together Hundreds

Dowagiac Union High School was crowded with party goers at the annual Youth Council Christmas bash. Kids visited with Santa Claus and everyone enjoyed games, music, food and contests. "We had a wonderful evening at the Christmas party.

It was good to see so much team work!" said one attendee. Commented another, "The food was good, the company was nice and it was so well organized!"

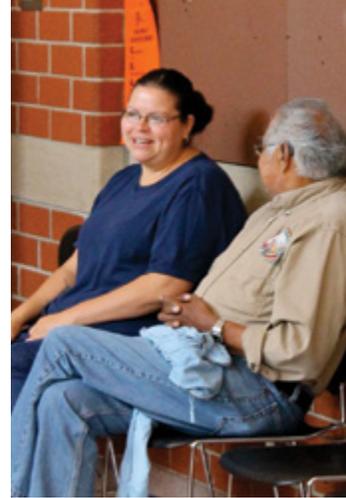




### **LAUNCH Grant Mobilizes**

Staff with the Social Services Department began work on Bodéwadmi LAUNCH, a project that fosters healthy development of all children from birth to age eight. The Pokagon Band is one of three Potawatomi tribes in Michigan awarded a highly-competitive federal grant of nearly \$4.2 million through Project LAUNCH. The grant money is shared among the Pokagon Band, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band, and the Gun Lake Tribe, and is one of the largest grants that Pokagon has ever received.

Experts know that the foundation for success in school, work, and relationships is established in the first years of life. Bodéwadmi LAUNCH builds bridges to help young children reach their developmental potential. In 2013 the program provided training for direct services staff, contracted with a mental health consultant to enhance services for Pokagon Head Start, and provided community awareness events.



### **Language Apprentices Chosen**

The Department of Language and Culture selected two language students, Carla Collins and Kyle Malott, to begin the new Master/Apprentice Program, a Potawatomi language learning opportunity that pairs adult language learners with fluent-speaking elders to create a team of new Potawatomi speakers.

Potawatomi is at a critical state of language loss; it is crucial that dedicated learners who are committed to teaching and revitalizing the language take action. Carla (along with her two children) and Kyle moved to in Crandon, Wisconsin for their two to three year apprenticeship. They will be the future teachers of Potawatomi language revitalization efforts, including a possible immersion school where Potawatomi children will become first generation speakers.

## mko gises february

### **Sisbaktoké | Sugar Bush Sweetens Bonds**

The Departments of Language and Culture and Natural Resources geared up for sisbaktoké, working with families to harvest the sap and make syrup from the Band's maple trees at Rodgers Lake. Folks helped tap the trees, carry the sap, tend fires to cook the sap and staff the evaporators. More importantly, the community took a step toward reigniting another traditional custom.

### **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Protects**

Tribal Police Department refined its operations on the \$900,000 grant to improve communication systems between tribal police and the sheriff's departments in Van Buren and Cass Counties.

This grant funds full system upgrades, allowing all departments to work with updated and compatible software. Improved communications between the departments will lead to faster response times and increased public safety. Upgrading to electronic records will allow officers in different departments to easily share information. The computer aided dispatch system will provide tools to get responding officers to their destination faster.





**Program and service statements and statistics**

# FINANCE

## 2013 Finance Highlights

Moved to a regular calendar year

Government operations are paid for by grants and largely the 38% of RAP funds

Economic Development Funds, 5% of RAP funds, supported multiple projects:

- \$1.3M Mno Bmadsen and Chi Ishobak operations
- \$2M Convenience Store Construction Loan
- \$3.2M Various construction projects

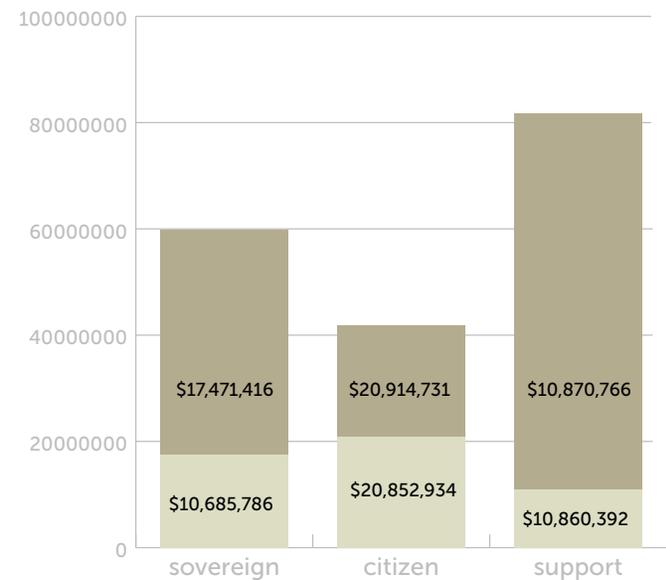
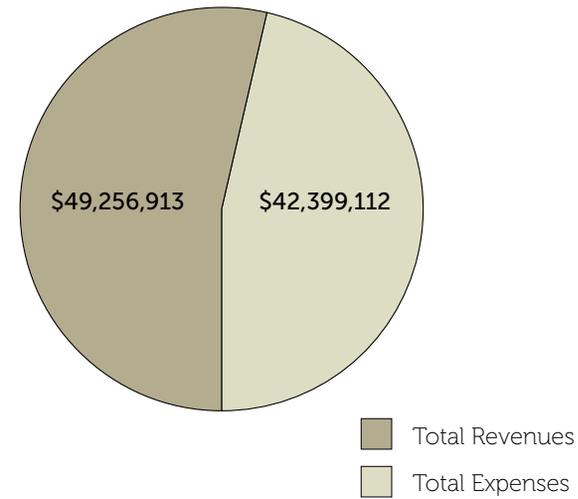
Dividend portions have been excluded for the purposes of this overview

## 2013 Revenue Highlights

- Revenues exceeded expenses by \$6.9M
- 51% of revenues came through the RAP
- 30% from grants
- 19% from other sources
- Other sources include items such as rent, fees, charges for services, and crop leases

## 2013 Expense Highlights

- 34% of expenses are related to the employment of 175 staff
- 30% of expenses are direct program services such as scholarships.
- 10% of expenses were incurred for the capital outlay mostly related to construction of new housing units.



## HEAD START

The Pokagon Band Head Start Program provides and advocates for quality preschool through a holistic approach of developmentally appropriate, family centered, and culturally relevant services to promote strong, healthy families. Head

### Ongoing Assessment

Work sampling is used as the Ongoing Assessment. The teachers evaluate the children's progress in these domains: physical development and health, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, logic and reasoning, language development, literacy, mathematics, science, creative arts expression, and social studies.

The teachers recorded daily anecdotal notes on children's developmentally significant behaviors during normal activities in the program. The teachers generated reports on classroom progress from beginning of the school year, middle of the school year and at the end of the school year.

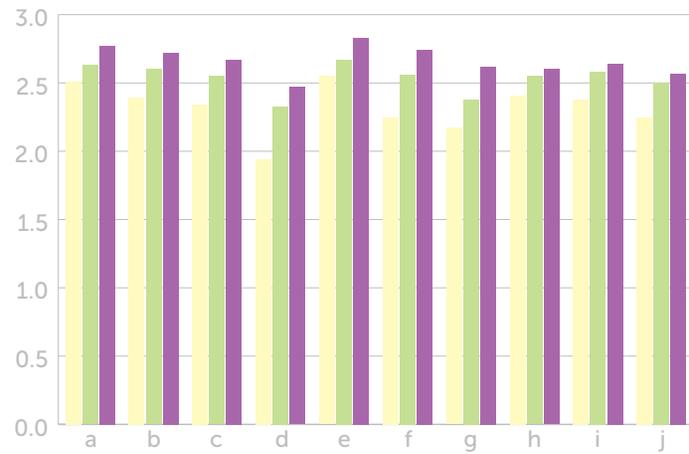
The Head Start Program worked with parents sharing observations, concerns about child's mental health and behavior, discussing how to strengthen nurturing environments, supporting parent participation, and to secure services in a timely manner while being culturally sensitive to children's needs. The teachers met with the families four times per year to discuss individual child progress and goals during their parent conferences.

Every year, as part of the federal review process, the Michigan Inter-Tribal Council Head Start programs—of which Pokagon Band's is a part—are evaluated using a tool measuring student-teacher interaction, a primary indicator of classroom quality.

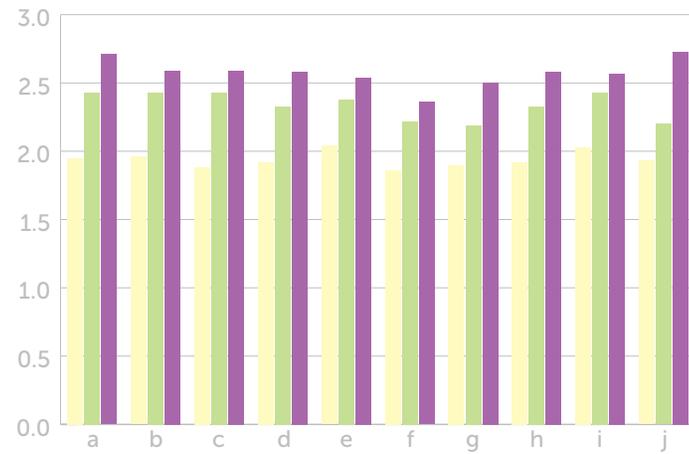
Start eligible children must be three years of age by December 1 of each school year and meet income-eligibility requirements.

- ITC-Head Start Programs scored higher than the national average in all domains and dimensions in 2013.
- The ITC-Head Start Programs scored better than 50 percent of the Head Start programs in the nation in all areas.
- The ITC-Head Start Programs scored in the top 16 percent of the Head Start programs in the nation.
- The ITC-Head Start Programs ranked in the top 16 percent in instructional support, teacher sensitivity, concept development, quality of feedback, and language modeling.
- The ITC-Head Start Programs scored higher than 99.85 percent of the Head Start programs nationally in language development in 2013.

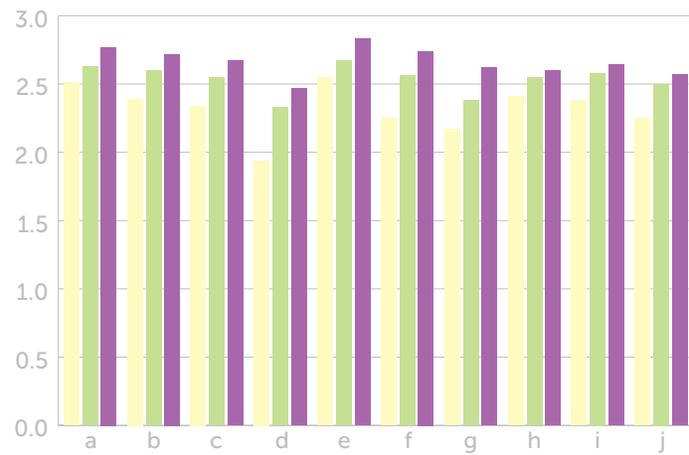
Classroom No. 1: Three Year Olds



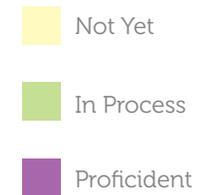
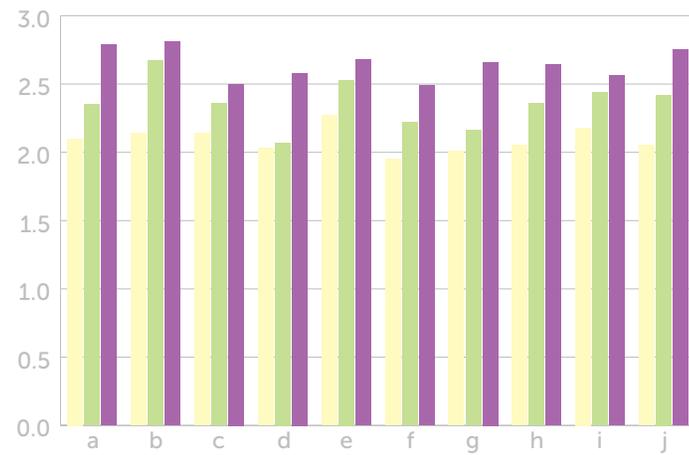
Classroom No. 2: Three Year Olds



Classroom No. 1: Four Year Olds



Classroom No. 2: Four Year Olds



- a. Physical development & health
- b. Social & emotional development
- c. Approaches to learning
- d. Logic & reasoning

- e. Language development
- f. Literacy knowledge & skills
- g. Mathematics knowledge & skills
- h. Scientific knowledge & skills

- i. Creative arts expression
- j. Social studies knowledge & skills

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The program staff continuously enhanced their educational levels with college courses, staff trainings and attendance at conferences. All program employees completed 17 trainings throughout the year, such as CPR/First Aid, CLASS Observation Tool and Environmental Health Policies and Procedures.

### **FAMILY SERVICES**

The Family Services Coordinator worked individually with each family throughout the school year. The Coordinator met at least three times throughout the school year to establish family goals, introduce the resource directory and the parent handbook, and provide health and wellness information.

Staff was able to assist several families with clothing, household item needs, social and educational services, and Adopt-A-Head-Start-Family for Christmas.

### **FAMILY EVENTS**

Families gathered monthly with their Head Start community for meals, activities training, socializing and support.

- In January community health nurse Elizabeth Leffler presented information on diabetes awareness.
- In February Elizabeth Leffler spoke about positive dental health care.
- In March Elizabeth Leffler discussed positive nutrition and making healthy choices.
- In April staff hosted a family literacy event.
- On May 16, all families attended the Head Start graduation.
- August 13–15 all families attended parent orientations.
- August 29, all new families attended Head Start Open House.





- In September the Pokagon Band Tribal Police presented pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle/car seat safety. The Head Start transportation staff presented bus safety and provided bus rides for families. Brian Dayson was elected the Parent Policy Council Representative and Jason S. Wesaw was elected the Community Policy Council Representative for the Head Start Program.
- In October the program distributed fire safety information, and offered pumpkin carving and costume and treat bag decorating.
- In November staff hosted a Fall Feast with shishibe.
- In December the children performed Christmas songs for their families and enjoyed cookie decorating, ornament decorating, ornament making and a hot cocoa stand

### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**

The Head Start Program worked closely with the Pokagon Departments of Education and Language and Culture, and Project LAUNCH and collaborated with the other seven ITC-Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in Michigan.

### **POTAWATOMI LANGUAGE & CULTURE**

Potawatomi language and culture was integrated into the Head Start Program throughout each school day. Rhonda Purcell, language coordinator, worked with the children and staff each day to incorporate the Potawatomi language. She also attended family events to answer any questions, provide pronunciation clarification, facilitate games and activities and offer materials and activities for families to do at home.

## Health services

### Contract Health Services

- 1,119 CHS Referrals
- 2,123 Claims Processed

### Pharmacy

- 24,403 Prescriptions Filled
- 19,839 Prescriptions Picked Up

### Clinic

- 5,524 Clinic Visits
- 1,097 Clinic No Shows

### Behavioral Health

- 1,401 Visits
- 380 No Shows
- 19 Waiting List

### Community Outreach

- 436 Home Visits
- 85 Dietician Visits
- 37 Dietician No Shows

### Transportation

- 1,630 Scheduled Trips
- 555 Cancellations
- 94,617 Miles Driven



I think Dr. Moore is thorough and very gentle. I liken it to going to the dentist; most people don't want to do it. She's knows everything about diabetic foot care. She relieves all anxiety, and is very friendly. I did have pain for 25 years, but she had some topical medication and the pain has decreased and you're able to walk much better and with much less pain. Absolutely more convenient. I probably wouldn't even be seeing a podiatrist if she weren't at the clinic regularly. Foot care is essential for diabetics, and I'm paying more attention to that now that she's so convenient. It's almost fun. She's friendly and easy to understand. I really can't say enough good things about her. Anyone thinking about seeing her should make an appointment; they won't be sorry. I've referred non-Pokagons to her office in Buchanan MI.

Trudy Loeding, Pokagon Health Services patient and Tribal Council member at large

If it wasn't for Behavioral Health and their competent employees, I wouldn't be doing as well as I am now. They've CARF certified, which is a big accomplishment. My counselor is awesome.

James Gideon, a Behavioral Health client.

## Housing & Facilities

In 2013 the Facilities team

- Responded to **798** maintenance work orders
- Maintained **72** Pokagon Band owned homes including grounds on all but **14** homes
- Maintained **19** Pokagon Band governmental buildings including grounds upkeep
- Added **3** new team members, all Pokagon Band citizens
- Laid **3** semi-truck loads of sod at the sports complex prior to the Gathering (photo below)
- Coordinated the renovation of **6** facilities

In 2013 months the Housing team

- Served an average of **425** citizens each month
- Processed **916** rental assistance payments for a

total of **\$275,000**

- Processed **701** monthly student rental assistance payments for a total of **\$175,250**
- Processed **99** emergency assistance/homeless prevention payments for a total of almost **\$150,000**
- Helped **9** citizens buy a home with down payment assistance totaling approximately **\$225,000**
- Built **32** new homes almost doubling the Band's number of housing units
- Created **dozens** of employment opportunities for citizen construction workers and apprentices
- Awarded construction contracts and other work to **8** citizen-owned businesses totaling over **\$500,000**



We outgrew our 1 1/2 bedroom apartment in St. Joseph when our daughter was born and my son moved in with us. Enter, the Department of Housing.

We used the rental assistance program, and the savings helped pay off our final past due bills. Just as we began looking for a bigger place to rent, Kim Cushway informed us that a home would be available, which we are confident we will own one day. The credit counseling the tribe has offered has been fantastic and every time I check our credit scores, both of our scores continue to improve. The Housing staff have been friendly and have always been quick to answer our many questions.

Now, we have plenty of room. I wake up every day thanking god and our generous tribe for changing our lives. We are now living in our dream home, with a nice big yard for our daughter to play in and the friendliest neighbors anyone could ask for. We are also looking forward to finally attending pow wows. Introducing my daughter to our culture is very important to me and we will continue to learn and grow as a family.

Our family owes so much to the tribe. We will continue to work hard to make sure we grow old in this Village.

Jason Gatties, who with his wife Priscilla, their daughter Sinoia, and son Dylan, are new residents of a lease-to-own home at Pokégnek Édawat



I just love my new place. It's the perfect size for me. It's very well-constructed, and a really nice, safe environment. It's nice to know all my neighbors, and I really love the walking trails to get exercise. It's affordable and a convenient location, since I work in Dowagiac and am involved in a lot of tribal activities. Teri Barber, a resident in one of the new elders duplexes at Pokégnek Édawat



## HUMAN RESOURCES

### 2013 Program Highlights

#### Preference Hiring

**20** of **33** new and/or replacement hires were Pokagon Band citizens or spouses for a **61%** preference hiring rate.

#### Apprenticeship

Currently there are **11** apprentices working through the program—**3** third year apprentices, and **8** second year apprentices. We are currently recruiting for first year apprentices

## Language & Culture

### 2013 Program Participation

#### Cultural programs

**38** Womens drumming

**146** Mens drumming

**149** Native healing

**271** Cultural workshop

**56** Co-ed sweat

#### Community events

**98** Culture camp

**570** Cultural Education Day

**500** Harvest moon

**245** Round dance

#### Language classes

**1,034** Adults and children participated in classes

#### Youth involvement

**285** Junior Youth Council

**151** Senior Youth Council

**95** All tribes lacrosse

**70** Family fishing tournament

**122** Family olympics

**81** Youth intervention

**171** Youth & elders programs

**96** Pow wow participation

**524** Festival & parade

**260** Youth conference

**280** Youth team building

**300** Halloween gathering

**311** Christmas gathering

## education

*"It was a great team building experience for Tommy. He really enjoyed it; he'll do it again this year for sure. The whole family enjoyed the tournament; it was really interesting. These kids put a lot of effort into their projects! And it's a good way for them to spend time."*

*Patricia Gamache, mom to Tommy, a 14-year-old who was a member of the Pokagon Band's Lego League team. 2013 was the second year that the Department of Education organized a team.*

*We are thank-ful for this program, and she has been blessed by this great opportunity.*

*Marcia Leonard, whose daughter Lexis Heineman benefited from the Department of Education's Enrichment Program. She used the funding to defray some of the trip costs for a national cheerleading competition in Las Vegas.*

*All in all, the Education programs have been very helpful for me. The scholarship helped pay for classes, which meant I didn't have to get another job and could limit the hours I had to work. This also meant I was able to do an honors thesis, and the tribe helped pay for me to present my research results at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference in California. In turn, I was able to get into a PhD program. It has had a domino effect for me.*

*Blaire Rodriguez, a student in the anthropology department at the University of New Mexico, who will graduate with a master's degree this spring and begin a doctoral program there soon after.*

## social services

### 2013 Program Highlights

- **368** Pokagon households in the service area received seasonal heating assistance totaling **\$134,444** from Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).
- **903** Native American individuals and families within the service area benefited from the Pokagon Band Commodities Program (USDA). Total federal share of the budget was **\$123,797**.
- **\$210,000** was received for the Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) providing childcare assistance for parents participating in an approved educational plan, employed or training for employment within the service delivery area. **415** Pokagon households received assistance from this program. **64** children were in care under this program. The average subsidy payment was **\$239**.
- Administration for Child and Family (Title IVB): Title IVB funds are to be used to prevent the breakup of the family, and assist in reunification of families disrupted by the court. **\$17,232** was received through Part I of this program and **\$30,078** for Part II. **70** assistance payments were made through these programs.
- Pokagon Band Burial Fund Code provides financial assistance with funeral and related expenses at the time of death of a citizen, their spouse, their non-member parents, and their children who were eligible for enrollment with the Pokagon Band. **22** burial requests were processed.



*I'm happy with how quickly staff was able to help me get out of my situation and into my new place.*

*A citizen, assisted by collaboration between two Social Services programs*

*I like attending Active Living and basket making; you learn things. I think they do much for us elders. I like to socialize and visit, and go to the business meetings, because then you know what's going on. I enjoy those very much.*

*Nancy Ketchum, participant in Elders Program*

- **69** participants benefited from the Supplemental Assistance Program—which supplements, but does not replace, federal, state and county assistance programs. To qualify, an applicant’s household income, among other requirements must be less than \$13,500.
- Pokagon Band Healthy Families Program helps create a healthy family for the **190** families in the program, impacting a cumulative total of **519** children. The direct grant funding ended in 2013 and is now funded by the Band.
- **473** referrals were provided to tribal citizens for outreach services. Such services included transportation for case-related purposes, referrals to service providers, and distribution of benefits for income maintenance programs of which the Band is the direct grantee. These were provided at the Rodgers Lake site, Elders Hall and in the Indiana office.
- **484** assistance payments for the Supplemental Heating Program were paid. **\$103,522.43** was received for this program, which was a combination of Tribal Council approved funding and CITGO funding. Assistance was provided for the entire citizenship. Tribal Building's heating expenses also received assistance as allocated by Citizens Programs Corporation.
- Through the Emergency Services Initiative tribal citizens can access assistance to help with an emergency situation that is impacting everyday life. Car repairs, utility disconnects, eviction notices are examples of issues brought forward. **409** households were assisted at a cost of **\$167,277.22**.
- Title VI serves meals **five** days a week. Approximately **25** meals a day are prepared and served. **3,656** meals were served in 2013 and a total of **1,687** home-delivery meals provided.



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*I don't know what I would've done without the supplemental assistance program. It's been an absolute blessing. The staff was so nice and helped me out so much.*

*James Gideon*

## Tribal Police

Responded to **3,397** incidents involving everything from suspicious situations to assaults and felony arrests.

Made **344** misdemeanor and felony arrests.

Conducted **17,072** inspections of tribal properties during and after business hours.

Had **144** Community Resource contacts.

Logged over **195,000** patrol miles.

From October 1 to December 31 the new Tribal Conservation Officer logged **553** separate conservation activities.

- **65** hunting license checks
- **159** thorough property inspections
- issued **4** tribal federal conservation citations
- cited **4** non-citizens for trespassing on tribal properties.





## chi ishobak

- Disbursed **\$214,440** to Pokagon Band entrepreneurs for small-business start-up and expansion
- Disbursed **\$168,216** to Pokagon Band citizens for automobiles purchases and credit building efforts
- Matched over **\$5,050** in Individual Development Accounts (IDA) funds earned by Tribal citizens
- **11** jobs created or retained, **11** first-time account holders, two first-time business owners, and one female-owned business
- **13** Tribal citizens completed Financial Wellness Workshops
- Provided more than **165** hours of technical assistance and information to over **580** Tribal citizens
- Awarded **\$135,236** from the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Native American CDFI Assistance Technical Assistance award
- Received CDFI certification status from the U.S. Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund



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We now have a reliable car, we're re-building credit, and have learned new ways to keep better track of our money. Sean's knowledge and experience with budgets, finance, credit, and loans have been a blessing to me and my family.

Dana Binder, recipient of Chi Ishobak's first consumer loan, designed to provide Pokagons an alternative to predatory lending and non-flexible lending institutions for transportation financing.

This authenticates our efforts for citizens and assures us that we are meeting national industry standards.

Sean Winters, Chi Ishobak's executive director, on hearing that the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) awarded certification to Chi Ishobak recognizing that it meets all operational and programmatic requirements and assuring that Chi Ishobak is servicing its target market.

### **acknowledgments and thanks**

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