



**Derek J. Bailey, Tribal Chairman
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N West Bayshore Dr
Peshawbestown, MI 49682
(231) 534-7103**

Ahnee (Hello)!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and Holiday break! Also, for those shoppers; I hope you did well with all the deals!

Today, snow has finally fallen in our region and reluctantly, I am enjoying it! In our teachings, they tell us that this is the season that Mother Earth rests, sleeps and gathers strengths for the rebirth in the spring.

The National Indian Health Board Executive Director, Stacy Bohlen, invited me to participate this week in an “Obesity Prevention and Strategy with Native Youth” meeting in Denver, CO. I was honored to be sitting around the table with the high level of expertise and passion for identifying an issue we at times do not discuss in Indian Country. What struck me the most was the term “epigenetic phenomenon”; which is that today we are dealing with the biology of the past two generations. Meaning, that with prior generations being undernourished and the life experiences of those times, we now come into an era of “abundance” or being overnourished. Our communities need to focus on our traditional diets and meals to what our dinner tables look like today. That is why I support the Michigan Land Use Institute’s promotion of buy locally, grow locally, and eat locally! As well, we can all watch the quantities of food and intake of sugar. For those that know me, yes, I do enjoy Coca Cola but even I need to change the amount and maybe one day, to live without even drinking Coke at all! (New Year’s resolution...?)

I want to thank the NIHB for providing the travel expenses so that I might be able to attend and represent for our Tribal Nation.



12.01.09 At the Obesity Prevention and Strategy meeting in Denver, pictured above (L-R) are Dr. Kelly Acton (IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment) and Stacy Bohlen (National Indian Health Board, Executive Director) providing opening remarks. Megwetch (thank you) to both of them for bringing this meeting together and for their professional and personal commitment to Indian Country!



12.01.09 Stacy Bohlen – a Sault Ste. Marie of Chippewa Indians tribal member in DC! Stacy – please keep up the good work and all that you do that benefits our tribal communities.



12.03.09 How come birthdays aren't as exciting as you get older?...Tribal staff had a nice surprise birthday party for me and to them, "Megwetch!"



12.03.09 Doris Winslow did an excellent job on my birthday cake! What a talent, eh?

I hope everyone in Northern Michigan enjoys their weekend and please be safe on the wintery roads. Next Tuesday and Wednesday I will be in Washington, DC. I have been asked to participate in the Indian Health Services consultation process, and I look forward to representing GTB and our region's health concerns in a manner of being part of the solution! On Wednesday, I was invited by Senator Dorgan, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs to provide testimony, below is a copy of the letter:

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6450

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December 3, 2009

The Honorable Honorable Derek Bailey
Chairman
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275

Dear Chairman Bailey:

The United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has scheduled an oversight hearing: Where's the Trustee? Department of Interior Backlogs Prevent Tribes from Using their Lands. The hearing will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2009, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. I am writing to invite you to present testimony before the Committee at that time.

In the interest of time, and to allow Committee members an opportunity to pose questions to you and other witnesses, the Committee asks that you summarize your oral testimony and confine your remarks to no more than five minutes. Your written statement may be of any length you deem appropriate and will appear in its entirety in the hearing record.

In accordance with the Rules of Congress, as revised by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, copies of witnesses' statements must be made available prior to their appearance. Accordingly, at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing, please send an electronic version of your testimony via e-mail as a WordPerfect, Word or PDF document to: testimony@indian.senate.gov. Please bring 65 copies of your testimony to the hearing.

The Committee would appreciate it if you would please promptly notify the Committee Chief Clerk, Marilyn Bruce, at (202) 224-2251 to confirm your attendance at the hearing. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs looks forward to your participation in this important hearing.

Sincerely,



BYRON L. DORGAN
Chairman

I will be updating my facebook and Twitter accounts next week, so if you follow me, please check in with any updates!

Have a great weekend and week!

Chairman Bailey

www.gtbindians.org

“A Nation grows stronger when built upon shared visions.”