

The Grand Traverse Band of
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive * Peshawbestown, MI 49682 * (231) 534-7750

Dear Student:

I regret to inform you that the GTB Tribal Council has revised the GTB scholarship eligibility guidelines for educational aid based on the drastic reduction of GTB gaming revenue. By council action on August 26, 2009, out of state educational scholarships will no longer be available; however, educational scholarships will still be available for GTB members living in Michigan or attending a Michigan accredited training facility for adult vocational training.

The source of all GTB scholarship aid offered to out-of-state students is from the profits of GTB gaming enterprises and the transfer of those revenues to the GTB government programs consistent with GTB's Revenue Allocation Ordinance (RAO), 18 GTBC Chapter 16. Under the RAO, governmental programs receive 25% of net gaming revenue, 10% goes to long-term investment, and 15% goes to the Economic Development Corporation, with the balance of 50% being distributed to all members on a per capita basis.

The Tribal Council has also recently implemented drastic cuts in tribal services and employment positions based on the significant decline in RAO revenues transferred to the government; and, consistent with tribal law, the Council has taken 10-20% pay cuts prior to reducing educational benefits. In short, the reduction of gaming revenue has impacted all sectors of GTB and all programs are experiencing reductions in services and employment.

We do understand the need for continued education and hope that in the future we can again assist our tribal member with their educational needs outside of the state of Michigan. Please watch our GTB newsletter for continued updates on the scholarship program. If you have specific concerns, please address them to me in writing.

Sincerely,

Joyce Wilson
GTB Higher Education Specialist