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FROM THE OFFICE OF SANDRA L. WITHERSPOON, TRIBAL CHAIRWOMAN

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The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is pleased that Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) is giving serious consideration to the Tribe's offer to purchase the Boardman Lake Ottaway River Campus building.

The Tribe's intent is to repurpose the facility as a centralized governmental services center dedicated to delivering programs and services for Grand Traverse County and the surrounding region. A centrally located campus would improve access to essential tribal services, enhance coordination across GTB departments, and better meet the needs of the tribal community.

"GTB sincerely appreciates NMC's thoughtful and responsive consideration of our proposal," said Tribal Chairwoman Sandra L. Witherspoon. *"The Ottaway River Campus presents an opportunity to expand and strengthen governmental services for our members while making productive use of an existing community asset. The site is beautiful, and the Tribe anticipates maintaining the area for access by all members of the public for recreational purposes and lake and river access."*

GTB values its long-standing relationship with NMC and remains committed to a collaborative and transparent process as discussions continue. The Tribe looks forward to ongoing dialogue with NMC's leadership and stakeholders to explore a mutually beneficial path forward.

Additional details will be shared as the review process progresses.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe dedicated to serving its members and strengthening community well-being through effective tribal governance, cultural preservation, land and water restoration, and comprehensive services.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is a federally recognized Tribe whose citizens are the Kchi-Wiikwedong Anishinaabek, the original inhabitants of the Grand Traverse Bay region. GTB, along with 4 other Tribal nations, is a signatory of the 1836 Treaty of Washington, which recognizes the sovereign rights of Tribal Citizens to hunt, fish, gather and live within their traditional homeland. This treaty deeded over the land base that would become the state of Michigan in 1837. In 1855, GTB was given a reservation of 87,000 acres in Leelanau County. In 1872, this reservation was illegally terminated by the U.S. Government. After restoration of federal recognition in 1980, GTB's Service Area now comprises six counties in northern lower Michigan, within which a scattered patchwork of 2,981 acres are under Tribal ownership. Peshawbestown, holding GTB's largest community and governing seat, is situated on West Grand Traverse Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan.