



**The Grand Traverse Band of  
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians**

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Statement on the July 26 Terror Stabbing Incident at the Traverse City's Walmart

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians expresses our deep sorrow and our solidarity with the eleven victims' family and community members affected by this senseless act of violence that occurred on July 26 at the local Walmart in Traverse City.

It is with profound pain, and prayers for a full recovery to all victims, that we acknowledge one of our tribal members was a victim of this senseless act. As a Tribal Nation, we are rooted in our Anishinaabe values of community, respect, compassion, and following the 7 Grandfather teachings as a way of life.

This arbitrary stabbing incident shakes the peace and safety of our shared home in Northern Michigan. Our compassion goes out for those recovering from this incident and the emotional wounds the community has suffered. We note the selfless bravery, compassion and community response by individual citizens who risk their lives immediately stopping and apprehending the perpetrator from inflicting further terror. We also acknowledge and commend the immediate police, ETM, and medical responses.

Any incident like this creates a significant breach in community well-being that will have a continuing adverse effect on both tribal members and nontribal members alike. We are all citizens of humanity who share our common heritage of a commitment toward safety. The Tribe, as a governmental unit in Northwest Michigan, offers support services through our Behavioral Health Department and other tribal departments for any tribal members who are area residents and who need assistance in addressing this terrible traumatic event.

GTB follows the principle of **Mino-bimaadiziwin**— “**the good life**” -- and will continue striving to create a safe, just, and peaceful community. We will work towards assisting the community in healing this trauma.