



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

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive • Peshawbestown, MI 49682 • (231) 534-7050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Grand Traverse Band Announces Closing on Former Boardman Lake Campus for
New Central Government Administrative Center**

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians is pleased to announce the closing of its real estate transaction with Northwestern Michigan College for the purchase of the facility located at 2200 Dendrinis Drive, Traverse City, Michigan, formerly known as the Boardman Lake Campus.

The Tribe will use the property as its new central government administrative center serving its six-county service area. The facility will support the delivery of Tribal governmental services, including domestic assistance and other member services, in a more centralized and accessible location for Tribal citizens.

The property includes Boardman Lake frontage and approximately 28 acres of land. The Tribe intends to place approximately 26 acres into its land conservancy to protect and preserve the natural character of the property. The Tribe also intends to submit a fee-to-trust application to the federal government for the remaining two acres, the approximate area covering the present building and parking lot, in order to establish federal trust status for the site of the central administrative center and to ensure that the facility operates under Tribal and federal governmental authority for Tribal governmental purposes.

At the same time, the Tribe expects to begin transitioning certain governmental departments and member services currently provided in Peshawbestown, Traverse City, and other county locations to the Boardman Lake facility in a phased and orderly manner.

The Tribe is also consulting with Tribal members regarding an Anishinaabe name for the new administrative center that reflects the Tribe's history, culture, and the significance of the site.

Chairwoman Sandra L. Witherspoon stated:

“This acquisition marks an important step forward in strengthening the Grand Traverse Band’s governmental infrastructure and improving the delivery of services to our Tribal citizens across our six-county service area. The new administrative center will help us better coordinate programs, expand access to services, and create a central location that reflects the Tribe’s long-term commitment to effective self-governance. We are equally committed to preserving the natural character of this property and to ensuring that this site serves Tribal governmental purposes for generations to come.”

This acquisition represents a significant investment in the Tribe's future and in the continued improvement of government services for Tribal members throughout the Tribe's service area.