

WHO ARE WE?

This newsletter is compiled and produced by a group of Sault Tribe Elders who live outside of the service area. We have brothers, sisters, and first cousins who live in each of the units back home. We moved away generations ago for work and though we are made to feel like second class citizens by certain tribal board members, we are proud of the decisions we have made to provide for our families and will fight to advocate for the 2/3 of our Sault Tribe citizens who live outside of the UP. Most of our issues are the same and through our families, we intend to build solidarity so our so-called Tribal Council cannot ignore us any longer.

ALL MESSED UP!

As elders, we have been around since before federal recognition and cannot remember a time when our board was so far off the mark with the needs of our people.

**DOES ANYONE BELIEVE THE
ELECTION WAS NOT
CORRUPTED?**

Does anyone believe that the people voted to return Bernard Bouschor to office just four years after he stole \$3 million to give to seven of his friends? For now, our tribe is suing Bouschor for the money back. That is until he strikes a deal with Abramson, Causley, Hoffman, Massaway, and Eitrem to let him off the hook by claiming the litigation is costing too much. In turn, Bouschor has filed suit to force us to pay him \$3.4 from Greektown. Remember, in our tribal paper, reports that Bouschor was terminated for mismanaging Greektown and creating a job then terminating his girlfriend giving her over a \$200,000 payout. For what?! He is married for goodness sake.

ELDER CHECKS TO BE REDUCED BY AT LEAST \$1,000?!

Recently, the new tribal chairman and board members have announced that the we elders will be lucky to get \$200 to \$600 this year which is down by up to \$1,000. For those married to a Sault Tribe member, this is a cut of \$2,000! For those of us who pay the supplement on our Medicare, or scrape together our savings to pay our taxes, this is a phenomenai amount. What is insulting is the smugness at which the board members like Causley, Abramson, McKelvie, and Eitrem made this announcement. There is actually a video clip of a recording that was taken without their knowledge at a Detroit meeting in August of this year. In the next edition of this paper, we'll provide you the link so you can see for yourself.

**EVERYONE EXPERIENCING
CUTS EXCEPT TRIBAL BOARD!**

Do you realize that the board makes \$67,000 a year for one meeting a week? In March of this year, they voted to lower their salary with a vote of 6 to 5. Now, that the votes have changed on the board with greedy Bouschor on board, they are claiming they did not vote to lower their salary. The savings of lower each Board member to \$12,000 a year (or \$1,000 a month) would be to save \$660,000 or about \$220 per elder. This would bring our elder check back up to \$400 to \$1000.

Do you support having created a welfare state for the Board? Besides their salaries, they get free health insurance, retirement, meals, lodging, traveling reimbursement, and concert tickets. With all the job cuts and programs eliminated, isn't it time the tribal board share in the pain? When did we vote to give them their salary in the first place? Maybe we should vote on this.

**UNNECESSARY AND POLITICAL
RETRIBUTION JOB CUTS
PROMOTES UNIONIZATION**

Following the 2004 election, Bouschor stole \$3 million to pay out his main campaign supporters. This time around, our new Chair and Board voted to eliminate our employee termination appeals process. They also voted to suspend the anti-retribution policy that protects employees against retributitional terminations. Then, they starting firing tribal member employees. Just some of those terminated include:

Nathan Wright
Robert Nygaard
Renee Robinson
Peggy Clement
Toni Osterhout
Diedre Malloy
Sue Stiver
Clarence Hudak
Darryl Brown
Jan Manning
Cheryl Tadgerson
Cory Wilson
Roberta Tshinart
Nichole Causley
Krista Payment

**KNOW WHO'S STILL GETTING
PAID?**

Joe McCoy (\$100,000)
Fred Paquin (\$100,000)
Tony Abramson (\$75,000)
Mike McCoy (\$110,000)
Alan Bouschor (\$115,000)
Rick McDowell (\$140,000)
Bill Connolly (\$125,000)
Steve Sprecker (\$130,000)
Victor Matson, Jr. (\$120,000)
Kristi Little (\$100,000)

Board members claim they wanted to terminate Paquin, McCoy, and Bouschor but they have contracts. They terminated Greg Collins, a contract employee with no regard for his contract liability of about \$300,000.

They also terminated Craig Gelphi, the Greektown CEO. Did they do so to make way for Bernard Bouschor to resume his \$856,275 annually salary? For the last 12 months, Paquin has put in about 1 month of work but has been paid the entire time to the tune of \$100,000! Recall that last fall he was charged with assaulting a Tribal woman and accepted a sort of delayed sentence if he kept out of trouble only to find himself suspended again while the FBI investigates him for various criminal acts. He has been suspended the second time since March. For over 6 months he has been paid to do nothing. That's \$50,000 for absolutely no work. What is wrong with our Board that they can innocence folks' jobs, while paying Paquin in six months as much as others make in a whole year?

RETRIBUTION TERMINATIONS

In January of this year, Renee Robinson fell in the Tribal administration parking lot on her way to work. She broke her leg and her back. Immediately Victor Matson, JR wanted to terminate her. Kristi Little has voiced her interest in terminating Renee for years. Immediately after the election, Victor terminated Renee - again while she was recuperating with a broken back. Then, they promoted Dennis McKelvie's niece to Renee's job.

Additionally, Toni Osterhout, a woman who has chronic respiratory illnesses has been threatened with termination for years while on FMLA. Immediately after the election, Matson terminate her as well.

In the month after the election, a Tribal Member submitted an article criticizing the Board's unwillingness to share in the cuts by lower their salary. The article was submitted to the Sault Tribe News Editor. Embarrassed by this article, the Tribal Board voted to terminate Cory Wilson for supposedly allowing this article to be published. So much for free speech.

Nathan Wright ran against Cathy Abramson, Bernard Bouschor and Joe Eitrem for the Tribal Board in Unit 1. In an apparent move to force Nathan to move out of the area, they fired him so he'd have to look for work in his field elsewhere.

Darryl Brown has long been vocal against Lana Causley for her role with the Mackinac Band disclaiming to be a Member of the Sault Tribe to qualify for a grant that paid herself and her father a salary *rather than what the grant was for*. Even though Darryl's position was self-sustained as it generated revenue from ad sales, his position was eliminated anyway.

Do Board members family members have jobs lined up for them? Daraka (McCoy) Hudecek already got a promotion as she is her dad's executive secretary now. Dejavyue? Remember when Bouschor was paying his daughter \$80,000 as his secretary?

Bouschor's son Alan continues to get paid over \$110,000 for a position in which he is failing miserably. Note DJ Hoffman, Dennis McKelvie, Bob LaPoint, and Joe Eitrem's unit reports where they cry and whine about the Tribe's marketing failures. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome. It might surprise you to know that Alan never applied for the position of VP of Marketing. In fact, the only position he ever applied for was as a Marketing trainee. He has never applied for the position of Marketing Director or VP. Must be nice to make \$110,000 for a job that your daddy got you. All the good people who lost their jobs wonder why Bernard Bouschor's son is immune. Was this a deal between Cathy Abramson, Joe McCoy and DJ Hoffman to protect Mike McCoy's 'do-nothing job' based in Lansing or Tony Abramson's high paid administrative job in exchange for leaving Alan Bouschor alone?

OTHER TRIBAL BOARD CUTS

Or we should say cuts the board made, because they certainly haven't cut any of their own perks:

**Kinross Health Clinic
Drummond Island Clinic
Escanaba Clinic
One Meal a week for Elders
Elder Thanksgiving Dinner
All Children's Christmas Parties
Employee Incentive
Elder Dividend Cut to 1/8
Elder Birthday Cards Cut
Elder Christmas Gift Card Cut
College Student Internships
Membership Meetings Downstate**

ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?

**Munising Tribal Health
Newberry Health Clinic
Contract Health Voucher Meds
Youth Education and Activities
Lambert Center Dental**

BOOZE IN THE BIG BEAR?

Well, it was just a matter of time with Bouschor back in office and Joe McCoy, his drinking buddy, that there would be a bar set up in the middle of our youth and recreational center - the Big Bear Arena. Members fought this before, but this time the move was made so quickly that the Youth Education and Activities staff were given just one day to vacate to a run down and dilapidated old house; a building that Associate Executive Director Kristi Little refused to let Tribal Substance Abuse enter because of it's condition. Remember the photo of Bouschor and McCoy boozing it up?

Stay Tune, More to Come

Our goal is to inform you of what is going on. You'll never see this information in our own paper. They fired staff for this. Please copy this and share with others.