



Chief Kay Rhoads Address To The Nation



Elizabeth Kay Rhoads
Principal Chief
Sac and Fox Nation

As the year comes to a close I hope everyone had a joyous holiday and enjoyed the time you shared with family and friends both near and far. With another year behind us, please take some time to reflect on the good times you shared throughout the year with family and friends, the fond memories of loved ones, and recognize the accomplishments no matter how big or small you made in your life. With the New Year comes many new dreams, visions, opportunity and challenges that we must implement.

This holds true for the Nation and the Nation's leaders, as well. This is the time to look at the dreams and visions of what really needs to be done to strengthen our Nation. The opportunities that is available to us to develop a diverse economy and create new jobs and businesses to ensure our growth. The challenges of how to find alternative revenue sources to fund new projects develop new partnerships, and how to implement effective programs will have to be resolved.

To meet some of the challenges we must seize the opportunities to acquire new grants. We have the chance to expand

our grant options if we build a foundation at the tribal headquarters. One way of doing this is to create needed housing for our tribal members. By having a residential basis on our tribal lands, more funds can be acquired for health, education, social services and public safety. If housing is developed in the immediate Headquarter area, the population is increased which results in the need for more services such as schools, daycare, medical services, social programs and activities. New training programs will need to be created to create a more skilled workforce for the new residents. If a strong workforce is created, business and industry will be more willing to invest in our area creating more job opportunities, businesses and expansion of our economy.

As part of the residential area, the development of a Senior Living Facility will need to be constructed. By increasing the elder population in the immediate area, this will allow the Elders to have easier access to the Social Services Program thus growing the program. It will allow the Elders easier access to medical services provided by Blackhawk Health Clinic and justify the expansion of health programs and services. With the increased population in the immediate area this will require the need for the development of a Convenience Store/fuel station, that has been long requested, as well as other stores and services.

This has been a dream of many people for many years, now is the time to make it happen. We have the land base, housing and health carryover funds that can bring this project to realization. This will help us address the vision of our Nation's growth, seize the opportunities and tackle the challenge of strengthening our Nation.

For this dream to happen, we need the support of our tribal members. We must have members willing to come to the Tribal Council Meetings to help make these decisions. The members must take part in the progress of the Nation. To use any of the tribal land for any of these projects, we need the consent of the Governing Council. Business cannot be conducted without a full quorum.

The people asked for more Governing Council meetings rather than one per year. As your Principal Chief, I have called for Quarterly Council Meeting, so we can conduct business. Trying to take care of business for a growing nation requires more than one meeting. Quarterly meetings allow for a smaller agenda and more time to concentrate on crucial business. I encourage each of you to take a part in the governing of your Nation. Don't let an opportunity pass the Sac and Fox Nation again, attend the Governing Council and help us to make our Nation the leaders of Indian Country again.

The next Governing Council Meeting will be held on March 5, 2016. Come and find out about your new casino development.

Do you want to earn interest on your gaming dollars? Then you need to be present to vote and pass an investment policy. Do you want a say in how grievances are handled? You have to vote on these issues to have a new policy implemented. Your involvement is needed to help make our government stronger. I hope to see you at the meeting in March, mark your calendars.

Happy New Year and may your year be blessed, joyful and prosperous.



Employee of the Year: (From Left) BC Member Robert Williamson, LaDona Johnson, Treasurer Jared King, Second Chief Don Abney and Principal Chief Kay Rhoads (SFNews Photo)

DOI Releases Status Report for Land Buy-Back Program, Announces New Initiative to Expand Implementation Schedule

Seeks input from tribal leaders, landowners to help determine sequence of next locations

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today released the 2015 Status Report for the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program), which summarizes its implementation to date and significant economic impact in Indian Country. Since 2013, the Buy-Back Program has paid nearly \$715 million to landowners and restored the equivalent of approximately 1.5 million acres of land to tribal governments.

In addition to releasing the Status Report, the Program is launching a two-part Planning Initiative to help determine its next implementation schedule for 2017 and beyond.

The first part seeks input from tribal governments who are interested in participating in the Program. Eligible tribal governments not already scheduled for implementation are invited to formally indicate their interest in participating in the Program no later than March 11, 2016.

More information is available to tribal leaders at: www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/tribes. The second part is a nationwide recruitment drive to further identify and engage landowners who are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

"The Buy-Back Program is another excellent example of this Administration's commitment to provide more economic, social and cultural opportunities for landowners, their families, and tribal communities for the benefit of generations to come," said Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor. "The interest in the Program across Indian Country has been incredible and momentum is building. Already more than 66,000 individuals have had the opportunity to consider purchase offers for their fractional land interests. We are committed to collaborating with tribal governments to offer this opportunity to as many

individuals as we can within the Program's ten-year timeframe."

The Buy-Back Program implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing landowners at fair market value. The Program is authorized by Congress through 2022.

For the first time, the Program's Status Report includes the findings of an economic impact study. According to the Department's Office of Policy Analysis, cumulative Program payments to landowners as of September 2015 have contributed an estimated \$752 million to gross domestic product, \$1.4 billion in the output of goods and services, and supported about 9,000 jobs nationwide.

"This Program is about putting resources back into Indian (Continued on Page 3)

Report From Secretary Mary F. McCormick

The Governing Council for the Sac and Fox Nation did not reach a quorum for the meeting last Saturday, December 12, 2015. Only 38 members signed the Registration Sheet, for the day. Principal Chief Kay Rhoads then dismissed the employees who needed to be present, and then announced that the meeting would continue as the Sauk Business Enterprise Board needed to give a "Status Report on the Cushing Casino."

Tribal member John Nelson, (Continued on Page 3)



Secretary Clinton meets with Sac and Fox Chief: (From Left) Principal Chief Kay Rhoads, Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State and Alicia Neva Quaya SFN Realty Director. (Photo Submitted)



BC Recognition Awards: Each of the business committee members chose an employee that exemplified hard work and strong character traits. (from left) The Committee Member's award went to Donna Vasquez ; Second Chief's award to Wolfgang Hinker; Jane Rich and Camaron Snider accepted a plaque in honor of the late Raymond Massey; secretary's award went to Don Whitehead; and treasurer's award to Karen Simmons (not pictured); and Chief Rhodes award went to Jean Lynam. (SFNews)

Upcoming Events

January 12

Sac and Fox Nation
Veterans Meeting
Cultural Center

January 13

Sac and Fox Nation
Elders Meeting
Stroud 10 am

January 21

Sac & Fox Nation
Womens Auxiliary

January 22

Election Board Meeting
Shawnee Multi-Purpose
6:30 PM

March 5

Governing Council
Community Building
10:00

February 6

Winter Stomp Dance
Benefit
6:00 pm - ?
Community Building

February 13

Powwow Committee
Sweetheart Dance
1:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Community Building