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## **The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Ziibiwing Center to Host the National NAGPRA Program's Review Committee Meeting and Training**

**Mt. Pleasant, Michigan** – The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways will host the National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program's 50<sup>th</sup> Review Committee Meeting and NAGPRA Training on November 5-7, 2013. This will mark the first time the national program has convened their official review committee proceedings on a Federal Indian Reservation.

NAGPRA requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections and to consult with Federally-recognized Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding the return of these objects to descendants or tribes and organizations.

The National NAGPRA Review Committee was established under NAGPRA "to monitor and review the implementation of the inventory and identification process and repatriation activities." They request information on compliance with the law and they make annual reports to Congress. They also hear disputes on factual matters to resolve repatriation issues between Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations with museums and Federal agencies. The Review Committee is an advisory body under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Questions regarding Federal agency procedural practice are addressed by the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 501 et seq. The seven (7) Review Committee members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior from nominations by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, traditional Native American religious leaders, national museum organizations, and scientific organizations.

"As a result of NAGPRA, more than 10,000 Native American human remains, one million funerary objects, and thousands of sacred objects have been united with tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

Ziibiwing has been working diligently on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa and Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance to bring home ancestors and their associated funerary objects from the

numerous museums, universities and institutions across the country since the passage of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

All proceedings are free and open to the interested public. The schedule of events for the week includes:

**Nov. 5, 8:30am:** NAGPRA Basics Training

**Nov. 5, 1:30pm:** NAGPRA Training: Burial of Native American Human Remains on Public Lands

**Nov. 6, 1:30pm:** 50<sup>th</sup> National NAGPRA Review Committee Meeting Called to Order

**Nov. 7, 8:30am:** 50<sup>th</sup> National NAGPRA Review Committee Meeting (*continues & concludes*)

For more information about the agenda, visit the National NAGPRA Program website at:

[http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/meetings/AGENDA\\_50th\\_Meeting\\_Mount\\_Pleasant\\_MI.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/meetings/AGENDA_50th_Meeting_Mount_Pleasant_MI.pdf)

The Ziiibwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in Mount Pleasant, Mich. is the Midwest's Premier American Indian Museum. Established in 2004, the Ziiibwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified and culturally relevant educational experience through its award-winning Diba Jimooyung (Telling Our Story) permanent exhibit, changing exhibits, research center, Ojibwe language immersion room, gift shop and meeting rooms. The Ziiibwing Center is a non-profit cultural center and museum belonging to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan who also own Michigan's only four diamond casino resort, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, and the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino located in Standish, Mich.

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