

**North Shore Tribal Council Christmas Gala**

**Thursday December 10, 2015 – 6:00 P.M. – Quattro Inn & Suites**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good evening. On behalf of Sault Ste. Marie City Council and the Office of Mayor, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Chairman Reginald Nignobe and to all of the representatives from the North Shore Tribal Council here to Sault Ste. Marie.

As we know from history, this particular part of the world has been a traditional Anishinabek gathering place for centuries. So it seems highly fitting that gatherings such as this are continuing to take place in the present day.

I'd like to congratulate the North Shore Tribal Council on celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year in 2015. I'd also like to thank everyone involved with the Council for their work over the past year.

Many of us here work in local government, whether as elected officials or as staff. It's obvious that we each have a vested interest in improving our local communities. However, we also have a stake in strengthening the region as a whole.

Because as the region strengthens, our individual communities come to benefit as well. The work of an organization like the North Shore Tribal Council certainly helps to encourage taking this wider perspective.

While I am here, I also want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Chief Lyle Sayers. Chief Sayers of course was the past Chair of the North Shore Tribal Council and a longtime leader in our neighbouring community of Garden River. During his time as Chief, Chief Sayers did much to foster good relations between Garden River and the City of Sault Ste. Marie, so I would just like to thank him again for all of his efforts in this regard. Thank you Lyle.

To those who have travelled here from afar, please enjoy your stay in our area. If you haven't been in a while, I hope that you have the time to see a few sights and experience some of what our Naturally Gifted Community has to offer.

Thank you again for inviting me and permitting me to welcome you here to our city of Sault Ste. Marie. Please enjoy this evening's gala.