



# PRESS RELEASE

2221 1½ MILE ROAD, FULTON, MI 49052

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**Contact:**

Lisa Barrett | 269.598.6753

## **NHBP Tribal Chair Named President of United Tribes of Michigan**

(Fulton, Mich.) - Homer A. Mandoka, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi tribal chair, has been elected as president of the United Tribes of Michigan. Mandoka began his two-year term of office, with the adjournment of the Oct. 23, 2013 meeting in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. at Soaring Eagle Casino Resort.

Mandoka, of Battle Creek, Mich., is a graduate of Kellogg Community College. Elected to the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi tribal council in 2002, Mandoka began his service as the sergeant-at-arms, was elected by tribal council members to the position of tribal chair in 2010, and was re-elected to his fifth term in 2012. Prior to serving on NHBP's tribal council, Mandoka served as a police officer for the City of Bronson for 15 years.

The United Tribes of Michigan membership is open to all of the 12 sovereign and federally recognized tribes in Michigan. The organization provides a forum to address issues of common concern and is committed to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the Michigan Tribes. Each year the UTM convenes several regular and special meetings in various locations across the state and also hosts an annual Legislative Reception in Lansing each February.

Outgoing UTM president, Larry Romanelli, congratulated Mandoka on his election. The newly elected officers for the UTM, in addition to Mandoka as President, include Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians tribal chairman, Aaron Payment, as vice-president, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians ogema, Larry Romanelli, as the treasurer, and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community president, Warren Chris Swartz, as the Secretary.

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About The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

There are more than 1,200 Tribal Members. The Huron Potawatomi' primary Indian Health and Bureau of Indians Affairs Service Area covers Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa counties. The Tribe's administrative office is located at the Pine Creek Reservation in Athens Township, with a satellite office in Grand Rapids, Mich. to better serve Members. For more information visit: [www.nhbpi.com](http://www.nhbpi.com).