



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**

1762 U.S. 31 South  
Manistee MI 49660  
(231) 723-8288

ORIGINAL

Resolution No. # 00-1111-05

**Approving Adoption of the Tribal Elders' Assistance Program Ordinance  
Ordinance # 00-100-03**

WHEREAS, the Tribe's status as a federally-recognized Indian tribe was reaffirmed and restored by Congress pursuant to Public Law 103-324, 108 Stat. 2156 (25 U.S.C. §1300k et seq.)(hereinafter "Little River Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, pursuant to Article IV, 7 of the Constitution has the power to enact ordinances and resolutions to promote the general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council did, receive recommendations from the Tribal Ogema regarding assistance to Tribal Elders, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that Tribal Elders, as a class, experience higher rates of poverty, isolation, chronic disease, mental health and other socio-economic problems than the general population, including the general population of Tribal members. These findings are substantiated by the 1992-1996 Long Term Care Study conducted by the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, which specifically assessed the socio-economic conditions of the Tribal Elder population of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. (E. Chapleski et al.)

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council further finds that, consistent with the traditions and values of the Anishnabek, Tribal Elders hold positions of honor and respect in our society and the institution of programs that promote the health and general welfare of Tribal Elders should be a priority of Tribal Government.

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council further finds that, nearly half of all Tribal Elders within the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians are 70 years of age and older. It is widely recognized that with increasing age, the incidence of chronic disease, functional limitations and other social and economic need increases.

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The current, single-purpose assistance programs available through the Tribe cannot adequately meet the diverse needs of Tribal Elders.

WHEREAS, the Tribal government has a responsibility to address the critical, unmet needs of Tribal Elders without further delay and without imposing intrusive procedural and paperwork requirements on Tribal Elders, and Tribal Elders can best be served by an assistance program that gives Tribal Elders the right to determine their own priorities and the right to allocate assistance payments to those priorities.

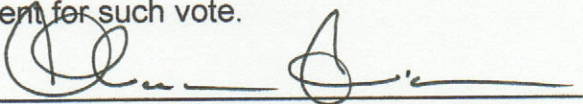
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that the proposed Tribal Elders' Assistance Program Ordinance will provide the short term solution to immediate needs of Tribal Elders in Fiscal Year 2000 and will begin the process of long term solutions to providing services to Tribal Elders,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby adopts the Tribal Elders' Assistance Program for immediate implementation, and

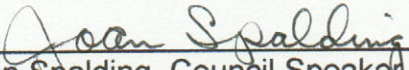
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council hereby directs the Tribal Ogema to prepare and submit a report to the Tribal Council within 60 days of adoption of this Ordinance which identifies recommended changes to better address Tribal Elders' needs.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 9 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSENT, and 0 ABSTAINING, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held at the Little River Band Community Center on July 24, 2000, with a quorum being present for such vote.

  
Charles Fisher, Council Recorder

Attest:

  
Joan Spalding, Council Speaker