

Mackinac Bands of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Membership-wide

CALL TO ACTION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Our petition for federal recognition is incomplete and we need your help gathering the necessary documentation to support our claim of continuous tribal existence. Our Bands are required to demonstrate the continuous historical existence of a distinct community and political leadership, from 1900 to the present.

In pursuit of our goal of submitting a fully documented reaffirmation petition, this Call-To-Action includes two items requiring your attention:

**#1 We are requesting that members send the following materials to Tribal Council:
Family/community histories, journals, remembrances, stories, teachings, and other writings.**

- Evidence of the Bands' "distinct community" and "political authority" is required. Distinct community means an entity with consistent interactions and significant social relationships within its membership and whose members are differentiated from and distinct from nonmembers.
 - Examples would show that historic Bands members gathered to engage in cultural activities such as ceremonies, cooperative labor such as hunting and fishing, and political organizing such as selecting tribal leadership based on a collective consensus – and that current Bands members gather in similar patterns and for similar reasons.
 - Where only oral histories exist, such as among tribal elders, **we are calling on members to record these histories in written format**, so that they may be included as evidence supporting our petition.

#2 Some members will receive a Consent Form in the mail. It is imperative to the success of our petition that these members fill out, sign, and return this form to Tribal Council.

- If you do not receive a Consent Form, this means that we already have your statement of consent included with your original membership application.
- Please support this effort by reaching out to fellow tribal members, especially those who may have filled out membership applications prior to 2010 to remind them to return their signed form to Tribal Council.

Mail materials to: Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, PO Box 250, St. Ignace MI 49781

Or email documents to: Enrollment@mackinacband.com

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