



Stockbridge-Munsee Community Report

2015-2017



Letter from the

Tribal Council President



Dear friends of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community,

The past two years have been a time of great forward progress for the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. The Mohicans are a dynamic Tribe. We pulse with an undeniable energy and an eagerness to seize the opportunities of tomorrow. You will see that energy reflected in the major milestones we celebrated from 2015 to 2017, including our 40th annual Powwow and our 25th anniversary of gaming, which speak to our resiliency and strategic use of resources.

Our Tribal Council has worked on behalf of our people to provide vital services such as affordable housing, public safety and youth education to hundreds of Tribal Members. We served as good stewards by moving hundreds of acres of land into trust for future generations, which is a process that normally takes decades to achieve. We improved health and wellness outcomes for Tribal Members and our surrounding community by expanding services at the Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center and opening a beautiful new Elderly Services Center for the most respected members of our Tribe. We took steps to preserve our past by reburying more than 250 of our ancestors.

For centuries, tribal nations have demonstrated a tremendous history of working collaboratively for the betterment of the whole. Just as our ancestors cared enough for their neighbors to help them in times of need, we take being a good neighbor very seriously. We strive to support education, conservation, safety and infrastructure projects in Shawano County and the greater North Central Wisconsin region, and you will see many of our partnerships and investments highlighted throughout this report.

In order to continue to provide vital health and human services resources to our Tribal Members and serve as a good neighbor to our greater community, we must fight for and protect the source of 96 percent of our earned revenue – the North Star Mohican Casino Resort. During the past 18 months, the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council has defended our economic lifeblood and the validity of all state gaming compacts by challenging unlawful casino expansion in our region. While that process is ongoing, we remain confident in our position and the merits of our case, and look forward to pursuing justice in the court of law as the legal process continues to unfold over the coming months.

Just as our ancestors cared enough for their neighbors to help them in times of need, we take being a good neighbor very seriously. We strive to support education, conservation, safety and infrastructure projects in Shawano County and the greater North Central Wisconsin region.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council for the past two years, but the biggest lesson I learned is that leadership is everyone’s business. It’s not about knowing the answer – it’s about the gift that is found in collective discovery. By working together, we have honored our sacred past and taken steps to ensure our collective future is bright.

Anushiik for your continued partnership, support and friendship.

Most gratefully,

Shannon Holsey

President
Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council

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The Stockbridge-Munsee reservation in Shawano County, Wisconsin

Tribal

Council



From left to right: Council Members Scott Vele, Jeremy Mohawk, Janet Miller, Shannon Holsey, Dr. Jolene Bowman, Chad Miller and Sterling Schreiber

About the **Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians**

- One of 11 tribes in Wisconsin
- Known as “the people of the waters that are never still”
- 24,000-acre reservation in Shawano County – original lands were on the East Coast in New York and Massachusetts
- 1,400 Tribal Members, 36% of whom live on the reservation
- Committed to being good stewards of economic, environmental and intellectual resources
- First public school teacher in Wisconsin was a female Tribal Member
- Only 7-8 people alive who speak the native Mohican language

The Tribe provides the following services to support Tribal Members and Shawano County:

Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54 apartment rental units and two home rental units for Tribal Members • 12 public rental units for community members • 27 homes in the low-income home buyer program for tribal and community members • Seven new homes constructed between 2015-2017
Health and Wellness Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30,00-square-foot clinic on the reservation • Open to Tribal Members and the Shawano community • General physicians, behavioral health counseling, chiropractic, community health programs, dental, laboratory work, radiology, pharmacy and more
Public Works and Emergency Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four police officers deputized by Shawano County and a detective who is supervised by the Chief of Police • Community Volunteer Fire Department, which has 25 members and assists with any structural, auto or land wildfires on or near the reservation • Stockbridge-Munsee EMS First Responder Service is staffed by six active responders made up of both EMTs and Emergency First Responders
Family Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball, volleyball, baseball, wrestling, bowling, cooking classes, card games, table games, scrapbooking, Native American games, sewing, regalia sewing, Native American dancing, field trips to movies, powwows and more
Library/Museum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated to preserving the Mohican culture and way of life and recovering artifacts
Social Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school program, drug and alcohol abuse prevention program, food distribution, Elderly Center and other services

The North Star Mohican Casino Resort

The Stockbridge-Munsee proudly operate the North Star Mohican Casino Resort, the Tribe’s sole gaming facility.

- Accounts for 96% of the Tribe’s total earned revenue
- Subsidizes more than 60% of the Tribe’s operations, Tribal Member services and philanthropic efforts
- 66,000 square feet of gaming floor
- 1,200 slot machines
- 16 table games
- 90-room hotel with multiple restaurants
- Hotel and conference center draw entertainment acts from across the United States, as well as weddings, conferences and other events
- Celebrated 25th anniversary of gaming in 2017



Our Impact

Economic Impact

Shawano County’s largest employer

- 810 jobs in Shawano County are provided through the Tribe and the North Star Mohican Casino Resort
- 71 percent of the Tribe’s jobs are held by non-Tribal Members
- \$10 minimum wage, 35% above the state average
- 84% of health insurance costs (medical and dental) paid for all employees
- More than \$25.8 million in gross wages for employees of the Mohican North Star Casino Resort, Tribal Government, Pine Hills Golf Course and Little Star Convenience Store

Catalyst for economic development

- \$1.3 million retail center near Highways 29 and 22 in Shawano, the only strip mall near a major highway between Wittenberg and Green Bay
- \$214,000 in property taxes and more than \$32.6 million in employment taxes contributed by the Tribe to the State of Wisconsin each year
- Largest contributor to road improvement projects in Shawano County, with nearly \$3 million contributed to city and county road projects since 2010

Social Impact

Lasting commitment to education

- Subsidize the area’s two largest school districts – Bowler and Gresham
- \$100,000 in funding provided annually for textbooks, iPads, a safety officer, music programs, scholarships and more
- Language preservation efforts underway in local school districts
- \$500,000 annually in scholarships to Tribal Members to pursue advanced degrees, technical degrees and adult education classes to increase employability
- Dedicated Head Start program on-reservation, with \$327,000 in annual Tribal contributions
- 170 undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. degrees conferred on Tribal Members over the past five years

A good neighbor

- \$200,000 donated annually to neighboring communities and other Indian Tribes
- \$20,000 donated to Shawano County Sheriff’s Department for new body cameras
- \$62,000 donation Bad River Tribe following devastating flooding in 2016
- \$48,000 to Gresham, Bowler and Pella Area Fire Departments for rescue tools and equipment
- \$20,000 to Town of Gresham for park improvements
- \$12,000 to Town of Belle Plaine for bike trail
- \$20,000 to Town of Seneca for repairs to Town Hall roof



2015

Tribal Accomplishments



Veteran's Affairs Signing – March 2015

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community was one of the first tribes in the State of Wisconsin to sit down with the Department of Veteran's Affairs to advocate for Native American veterans to receive needed medical care. Through an agreement negotiated and signed in March 2015, American Indian and Alaskan Native veterans can receive health care services at the Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center, with the cost reimbursed by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Agreements such as this are made possible by the strong government-to-government relationships that the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council has built over the years.



Approval of Stockbridge-Munsee Community Strategic Plan – June 2015

After a series of meetings with the Tribal Council, staff and community members, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community approved a strategic plan, which became effective October 1, 2015. The mission of the plan was to empower the Stockbridge-Munsee Community to preserve the heritage and the sustainability of their Nation. Through this process, numerous strategic goals and objectives were created and assigned to team leaders, who with the assistance of Tribal staff, are currently working on the implementation process. The first initiative of the plan was "Tell Our Story," followed by a food sovereignty initiative. The Community continues to work diligently on implementation and achievement of the goals and objectives of the strategic plan in order to position the Tribe for a bright future.



Native American Heritage Night with the Milwaukee Bucks – November 2015

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is always looking for opportunities to work with other Native Nations to share the rich culture that each tribe has to offer. Tribal Council President Shannon Holsey, in conjunction with other tribal leaders from Wisconsin, showcased the heartbeat of the state's Tribal Nations and the talent of the state's native youth during halftime at a Milwaukee Bucks game. A drum group comprised of a representative from each of the 11 Tribal Nations in Wisconsin accompanied young dancers as they showcased traditional native dance styles.



Aid to Local Government – Fiscal Year 2015-2016

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community has awarded more than half a million dollars to local government entities from its Aid to Local Government Fund since its inception in 2003. The Aid to Local Government Fund is part of the Tribe's Gaming Compact with the State of Wisconsin and local government entities are encouraged to apply for up to \$20,000 to address community needs. In fiscal year 2015-16, 11 local government entities received a total of \$185,980. Gresham Community School received \$20,000 to enhance its third-grade reading curricula, purchase fourth-grade science text books, update its junior and senior high online social studies curricula, and purchase digital cameras and polo shirts for the school's marching band.



2016

Tribal Accomplishments



Groundbreaking for a New Elderly Services Center – July 2016

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community honors and respects all elders who reside in or visit the community. With the Tribe's elderly population growing, the Tribal Council determined that it was necessary to construct a new facility to better accommodate the current and future needs of the Tribe's elders. On July 29, 2016, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community held a groundbreaking ceremony for a New Elderly Services Center. The new building was designed through a collaborative process including the Elderly Steering Committee, Tribal staff and Tribal administration.



Groundbreaking for a New Retail Location – September 2016

An open lot on a busy highway interchange will soon be home to a retail building owned by the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. On September 2, 2016, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, along with general contractor, Bay Land Builders held a ground-breaking ceremony at the Highway 29/22 interchange in Belle Plaine, with state and local officials present. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2017, and will help spur economic growth in North Central Wisconsin. The mini-strip mall will have five available spaces for lease, which are expected to bring a number of permanent new jobs to the area.



Native American Heritage Night at Marquette University – November 2016

Tribal Council President Shannon Holsey worked closely with the President's Office at Marquette University in Milwaukee to plan an event that would allow students and staff to learn about native history during Native American month. In November, youth, chaperones and Tribal leaders from many Wisconsin tribes were invited to take part in a cultural event during halftime of a Marquette University men's basketball game. The display included traditional dancing and drumming for more than 12,000 Marquette fans. A Stockbridge-Munsee flag is now displayed at Marquette University to demonstrate the pride of Tribal alumni and future students.



40th Annual Mohican Powwow – August 2016

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community celebrated 40 years of its annual Mohican Nation Powwow August 12-14, 2016. The Powwow provides an opportunity for the community to learn about and celebrate the Mohican Nation's heritage and culture through dancing, singing, crafts and other activities. The 40th anniversary Powwow honored all military veterans in the Tribe. During the Grand entries, military veterans and active duty soldiers carried in the American flag, tribal flags and eagle staffs, followed by the head dancers and then the remaining dancers – all in traditional dress.



2017

Tribal Accomplishments



County Road J Partnership Phase II – February 2017

Being a good neighbor is very important to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. As such, the Tribe is always seeking ways to improve relationships with local, state, tribal and federal entities. An important aspect of being a good neighbor is securing partnerships to achieve a common goal. When improvements were needed to County Highway J, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community and the Shawano County Highway Department partnered to complete two phases of the County Highway J Project to improve travel conditions for residents and visitors.



Baseball Field Improvement Project – April 2017

After 50 years of participating in Little League, the Mohican Little League team was selected to be co-host of the 2017 League Tournament. Certain expectations needed to be met to seize the opportunity, including improving the current field, adding a concession stand and covered grandstand, and increasing parking. The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council stepped in to provide financial support for the baseball field improvement project. Tribal Council Member Jeremy Mohawk worked hard to secure a Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW) grant to assist with the project and to allow Mohican youth to show off their baseball skills.



Grand Opening of the Eunice Stick Gathering Place – February 2017

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community holds their elders in the highest esteem. In early 2017, the Tribe celebrated the grand opening of a beautiful 7,200-square-foot, \$1.7 million Elder Care Center dedicated to Tribal Elder, Eunice Stick, who was famous for her “get it done” attitude. Known as the Eunice Stick Gathering Place, the building includes a lounge with a fireplace, a commercial grade kitchen, a 120-seat dining room and professional meeting areas with video conferencing capabilities. The new Elder Care Center offers daily meal services, transportation services, activities and recreational opportunities, and chore services, including snow removal, lawn maintenance and window washing.



President Holsey Gives State of the Tribes Address – April 2017

Each year, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, which includes members from Wisconsin's 11 tribes, selects one of its members to give the address, which is in its 13th year. In 2017, Tribal Council President Shannon Holsey was invited to give the annual State of the Tribes Address to a joint session of the Wisconsin State Legislature in early April. In a moving speech, President Holsey called on legislators to work together as the Native American tribes have done for centuries. She also advocated for increased education on Native American history and language to be incorporated into public schools and discussed the need for greater conservation efforts surrounding Wisconsin's lakes and forests. President Holsey applauded state lawmakers for the work they've done to combat opioid abuse and urged them to work with tribal leaders to expand access to health care, especially for the elderly. Finally, she asked lawmakers to use their roles as leaders to include a wider range of people in conversations and understand other sides. “Unity does not have to mean uniformity,” Holsey said. “It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within everyone. ‘We the people’ means everyone.”



Defending Our Economic Lifeblood

The North Star Mohican Casino Resort is critical to the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe's future and way of life. The North Star Mohican Casino Resort is the Tribe's only gaming operation (many other local Tribes have multiple) and accounts for 96 percent of the Tribe's earned revenue. In fact, revenue from the North Star Mohican Casino Resort subsidizes more than 60 percent of the Tribe's operations, Tribal Member services and philanthropic efforts.


In fall 2008, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community invested \$100 million to expand the casino's gaming floor and to add a hotel and conference center space, which created 100 construction jobs and 56 permanent new jobs. The North Star Mohican Casino Resort now includes 66,000 square feet of gaming floor with 1,200 slot machines and 16 table games. In 2017, the Stockbridge-Munsee celebrated its 25th anniversary of gaming.

Unlawful Wittenberg Expansion

The Ho-Chunk Nation, which currently operates six gaming facilities throughout Wisconsin, has begun construction on an unlawful \$27 million expansion of its Wittenberg ancillary casino to create a larger gaming floor and a 90-room hotel. This would create a casino of considerable size a mere 16 miles from the North Star Casino. Ho-Chunk Wittenberg's greatly expanded facilities and prime location near the intersections of WI Highways 29 and 45, two major state arteries, would intercept the North Star Mohican Casino Resort's business from Northwest Central Wisconsin, including its largest customer base in Wausau, Wisconsin. The effect will be crippling, forcing severe cuts in essential governmental programs and services to Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Members and to the region.

According to the State's own definition, an ancillary gaming facility is restricted in both size and scope in order to clearly differentiate it from a full-scale casino. First, the non-gaming business (such as a gas station) and the gaming business must be located in the same building. Second, the gaming business must generate less than 50 percent of the combined facility's net revenue. Finally, the non-gaming portion of the building must be physically larger than the gaming portion of the building. Neither the Ho-Chunk's current Wittenberg facility nor its planned expansion adhere to those terms.

The Ho-Chunk's unlawful Wittenberg expansion has the potential to destabilize the local gaming market and endanger the way of life for the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe and the hundreds of Shawano County families who rely on the Tribe for employment.



Economic Impact of the Ho-Chunk Nation's Unlawful Wittenberg Expansion

- Seven tribal nations in Wisconsin would face a \$37 million annual loss
- Stockbridge-Munsee would see a \$22 million annual reduction in machine revenue at the North Star Mohican Casino
- Meanwhile, the Ho-Chunk Nation would operate five of the state's 10 largest casinos
- Stockbridge-Munsee would likely be forced to cut jobs, while poverty rates around the reservation are already 15-20%

Taking Action to Protect Tribal Gaming Compacts

Led by the Tribal Council, the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians and other tribes have repeatedly called upon the State of Wisconsin to fairly enforce state gaming compacts for all tribes, to no avail. As such, the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe withheld its revenue sharing payment of \$923,000 to the State of Wisconsin and invoked its right to dispute resolution procedures due to the State's violation of its gaming compact with the Stockbridge-Munsee.



"As our only gaming facility, the North Star Mohican Casino Resort is the economic lifeblood for our Tribe and hundreds of Shawano County families. We have tried to resolve these issues directly; now we are being forced to pursue all legal remedies available to protect our 1,400 tribal members, hundreds of employees and the various local organizations who rely on our support, such as the Shawano County Sheriff's Department, area towns and municipalities, the Bowler and Gresham School Districts, and local parks departments."

– Shannon Holsey, Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council President



Serving as

Good Stewards of Our Resources

Land conservation efforts

The Stockbridge-Munsee continually seek ways to live sustainably with Mother Earth, preserving nature's resources in pristine condition for the next seven generations. The Tribe takes seriously its duty to protect, maintain and where necessary, improve the health of the natural environment.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community operates a Conservation Department with two Conservation Wardens who help protect Tribal lands and ensure all residents and visitors comply with hunting and fishing regulations.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Land Management Department works diligently to acquire new lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. Once these lands are secured, the land to trust process begins with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which can sometimes take decades to conclude. In the past two years, the Stockbridge-Munsee have successfully placed 311 acres into trust status for future generations.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe currently owns a total of 27,737 acres in the Townships of Bartelme and Red Springs. About 16,000 acres are forested, which include non-forested management lands like reserves, lowlands and swamps.



Improving Health and Wellness Outcomes for the Mohican People



The Mohican people believe that kihkeeheewaakan, or healthcare, is an inalienable human right that should be accessible to all people of Mother Earth. This belief is deeply rooted in the Tribe's sacred healing tradition. In line with these traditions, the Tribe provides universal care to all Tribal Members including clinical and social services that incorporate both Western and traditional Native models of medicine.

Through the 30,000-square-foot Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Clinic, the Tribe provides behavioral health, dental, primary care, pharmacy, radiology and chiropractic services to both Tribal Members and Shawano County community members. The Health and Wellness Clinic also manages a variety of community health programs, including diabetic assistance, nutrition education, health screenings and elder safety checks.

The Tribe contributes nearly \$3.5 million annually in healthcare expenses for Tribal Members.



Health and Wellness Services

- **Behavioral Health:** Case management and coordination of services; court intervention; individual, group, family, marriage and couples counseling for a variety of issues; AODA treatment and assessment and psychological assessments and testing
- **Community Health:** Nutrition services; home health aides; health screenings; diabetic nurse educator; maternal child health nurse; medication assistance; hospital discharge follow-up and Lifeline emergency alert program
- **Dental Care:** The Dental Clinic has two dentists, two full time hygienists, four dental assistants and a dental office specialist. The dental clinic offers digital x-rays and electronic dental records
- **Medical Care:** The Health and Wellness Center employs two family practice doctors, a family nurse practitioner, two full-time registered nurses, a certified medical assistant, a certified nursing assistant, the nurse manager/triage nurse and additional fill-in staff. Visiting providers offer specialized services such as podiatry, obstetrics and gynecology and geriatric centered care



Celebrating Our Past Protecting Our Future

The Mohican people take seriously the responsibility to ensure the identification, protection and preservation of culturally significant archaeological and historical sites, both on and off the reservation.

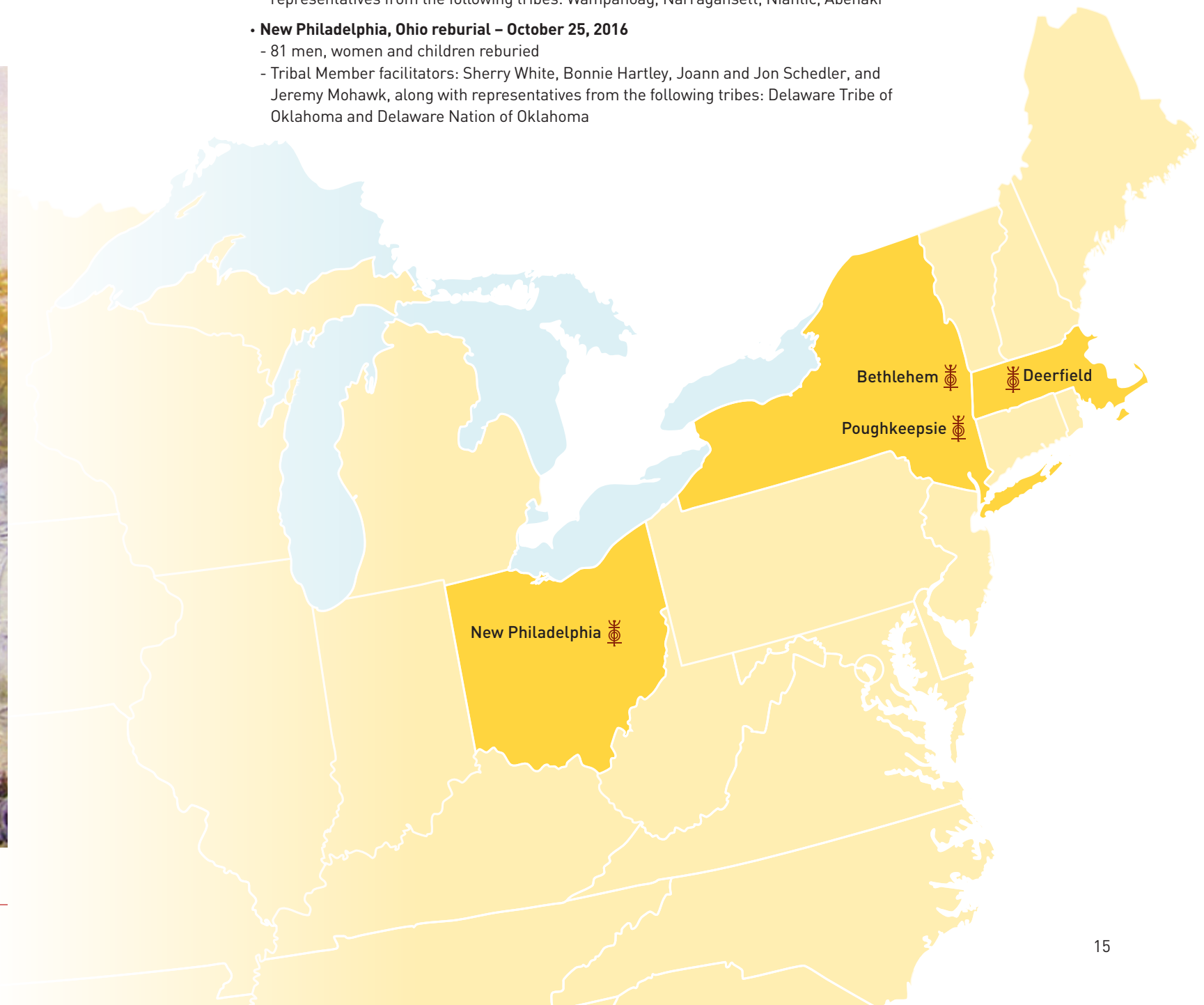
The Tribe's Historical Library and Museum exists to preserve the history and culture of the Mohican people for Tribal Members and the general public. The library includes books, manuscripts, correspondence, handwritten letters, notes, maps, microfilm, microfiche, scrapbooks, photographs, video tapes, language tapes and more. The museum houses a collection of cultural and historical artifacts, including the Tribe's Bible.

Under the authority of Tribal and Federal regulations, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was enacted in 1990 to address the rights of Indian Tribes to preserve cultural items. The law requires federal agencies and museums to inventory their holdings of Native American human remains, funerary objects and objects of cultural patrimony. The act also allows tribes to reclaim materials that were often taken un-rightfully. Under the guidelines of NAGPRA the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe has been able to repatriate and rebury the remains of 267 Mohican ancestors within the last two years.



Mohican Ancestor Reburials, 2015-2017

- **Bethlehem, New York reburial – October 2015**
 - One Mohican ancestor reburied
 - Tribal Member facilitator: Bonnie Hartley
- **Poughkeepsie, New York reburial – November 13, 2015**
 - One female Mohican ancestor reburied
 - Tribal Member facilitators: Sherry White, Bonnie Hartley and Jeremy Mohawk
- **Deerfield, Massachusetts reburial – September 24, 2016**
 - 184 Mohican men, women and children reburied
 - Tribal Member facilitators: Sherry White, Bonnie Hartley and Jeremy Mohawk, along with representatives from the following tribes: Wampanoag, Narragansett, Niantic, Abenaki
- **New Philadelphia, Ohio reburial – October 25, 2016**
 - 81 men, women and children reburied
 - Tribal Member facilitators: Sherry White, Bonnie Hartley, Joann and Jon Schedler, and Jeremy Mohawk, along with representatives from the following tribes: Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma and Delaware Nation of Oklahoma



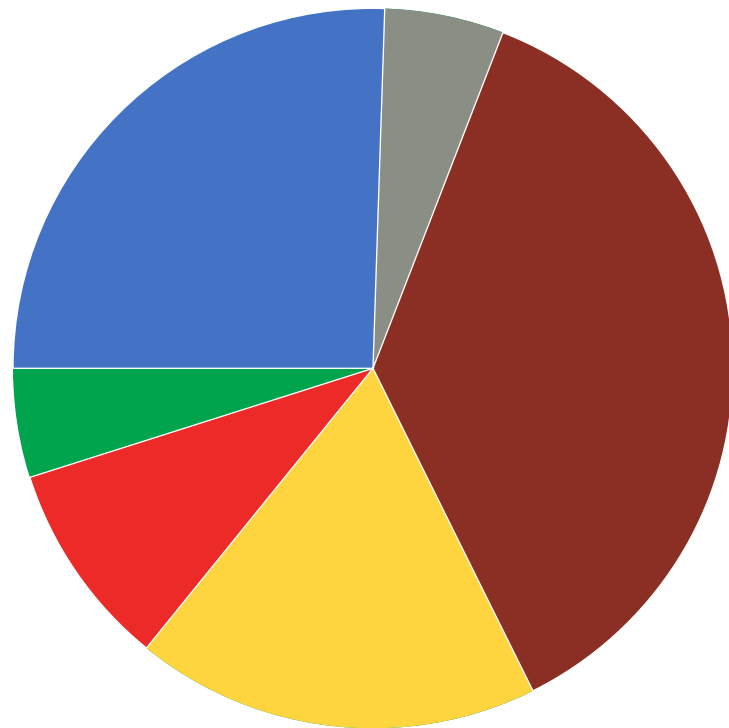


Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Government

Financial Overview

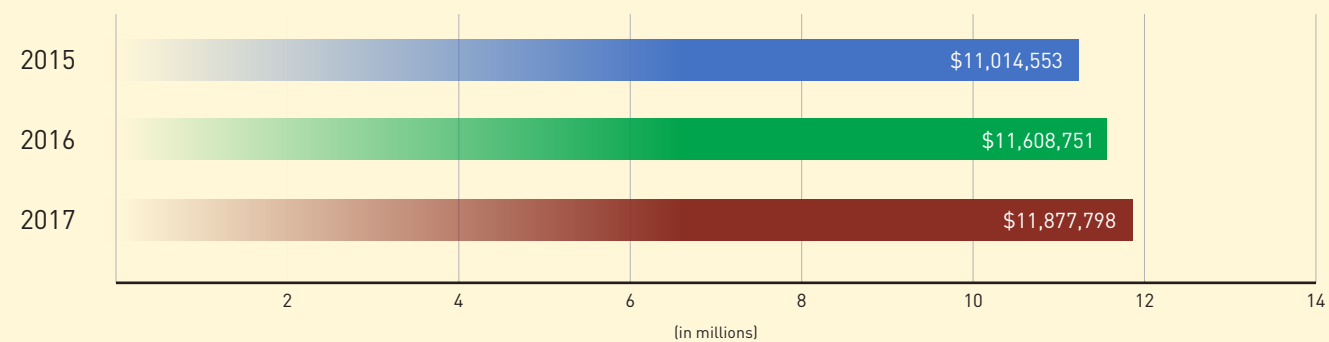
General Government: \$6,871,943 (26%)	
Tribal Courts	
Ecology and Environmental Services	
Forestry Department	
Land Management	
Library/Museum	
Tribal Historic Preservation Efforts	
Education: \$1,431,401 (5%)	
Education Services and Support	
Headstart Program	
Health Care: \$9,894,427 (37%)	
Health and Wellness Center	
Human Services: \$4,882,113 (18%)	
Family Center	
Social Services	
Affordable Housing	
Ella Besaw Senior Living Center	
Elderly Services Center	
Family Services	
Roads & Public Utilities: \$2,498,582 (9%)	
Road Maintenance	
Community Public Utilities	
Public Safety/EMS: \$1,312,252 (5%)	
Public Safety Services	
Community Fire Department	
Community Preparedness	
Emergency Medical Services	

FY 2017 Budget



- General Government
- Education
- Health Care
- Human Services
- Roads & Public Utilities
- Public Safety/EMS

Tribal Government Spending
FY 2015-2017





N8476 MoHeConNuck Road
Bowler, Wisconsin 54416

715.793.4111 | mohican.com