



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

Chairman Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr. **Secretary/Treasurer** Robert Abramowski
District I Wally J. Dupuis **District II** Brad Blacketter **District III** Roger M. Smith, Sr.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Announces 2024 General Election Results

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – Cloquet, Minnesota (June 17, 2024) – The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa proudly declares the outcome of its highly anticipated 2024 General Election, during which candidates contended for three of the Band's elected offices. Through the active involvement of our tribal community, this election marked a significant moment in our Band's decision-making process.

The election, characterized by its high interest, featured esteemed Band members vying for the positions of Chairperson, District 1 Representative (Cloquet), and District 3 Representative (Brookston). After careful deliberation and the dedicated participation of our community members, the following candidates emerged successful:

Chairperson:

Kevin R. Dupuis Sr. (Incumbent): 426 votes (47.12%)
Bruce M. Savage: 478 votes (52.88%)

District 1 Representative (Cloquet):

Wally Dupuis (Incumbent): 343 votes (59.55%)
Michelle Debolt: 233 votes (40.45%)

District 3 Representative (Brookston):

Earl Otis: 104 votes (60.12%)
Roger M. Smith, Sr. (Incumbent): 69 votes (39.88%)

The results signal a significant transition in leadership, particularly for the positions of Chairperson and District 3 Representative.

Kevin R. Dupuis Sr. has served 16 years in office, with the last eight years as Chairperson, four years as District 3 Representative, and four years as the Band's Secretary-Treasurer. He will transfer responsibilities to Bruce M. Savage, following his successful campaign.

Additionally, after 12 years in office, Roger M. Smith, Sr. concludes his tenure as District 3 Representative and serving as Vice-Chairman for the Band, as Earl Otis steps into the representative role for the first time.

Chairman Dupuis and Vice-Chairman Smith have dedicated a significant amount of time to the Fond du Lac Band community. Their representation and leadership have benefited our community for many years, and their legacies will continue to shape our future for many more years to come.

In the words of the newly elected officials:

Wally Dupuis (District 1 Representative-Elect – Cloquet):

"I am extremely humbled and honored and feel it is a great privilege to be selected as our representative. I truly appreciate the overwhelming support that once again has been given to me in this election process, as well as the support given to me during my terms. I am and will continue to be committed to serving with dedication and integrity. I will work tirelessly to meet the expectations of our entire membership."

Earl Otis (District 3 Representative-Elect – Brookston):

"The election process saw me visit and talk to many throughout the Brookston District. I aim to be a representative who is available and seen, who is out at the Brookston Community Center, active for the community, talking to the community, no matter how tough the conversations are. I want to be there for them, know their concerns and help them with whatever I can. Ultimately, to be the best representative for them."

Bruce Savage (Chairperson-Elect):

"I am pleased to see the people of our Fond du Lac tribal community exercise their right to vote. This election reflects the voice of the people."

In July, the administration will formally transition, and the Fond du Lac Band will integrate our newly elected officials, marking a significant moment in our collective journey and ushering in a new era for our tribal community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the candidates and express our gratitude to the Fond du Lac Band community for their active participation in shaping the future of our tribe.

For more information about the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa including upcoming events, news and updates like this visit <https://www.fdllband.org/>

About Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Nagaajiwanaang, "Where the Water Stops," is the name of the homelands of the Fond du Lac Band at the time of the 1854 Treaty. We retained this name in Ojibwemowin for the present-day Fond du lac Reservation that was established under the 1854 La Pointe Treaty. Nagaajiwanaang (Fond du Lac Band) is one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. There are three districts that make up the Fond du Lac Reservation: Bapashkominigong (Cloquet), Gwaaba'iganing (Sawyer), and Ashkibwaakaaning (Brookston). Today, our Band includes over 4,200 members. We have always been, and continue to be, a proud sovereign Ojibwe nation. We uphold all of our rights retained and agreed to within the 1825, 1826, 1837, 1842, 1847, and 1854 Treaties.