



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fond du Lac Band Celebrates Grand Reopening of the Minneapolis American Indian Center

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – Cloquet, Minnesota (May 13, 2024) – Nearly two weeks ago, on Wednesday, April 1, the Fond du Lac Band proudly celebrated the grand reopening of the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC), marking a significant milestone in the ongoing journey of community empowerment and cultural revitalization. Through the Band's unwavering support, MAIC has undergone transformative renovations aimed at better serving the needs of Native people in Minneapolis and the Metro areas.

The grand reopening festivities commenced with a vibrant parade down Franklin Avenue, symbolizing the unity and resilience of the Native community. Drum groups, eagle staffs adorned with tribal flags from across Indian Country, and American Indian Movement flags led the procession, paying homage to the rich tapestry of indigenous cultures that have shaped Minneapolis's history. Tribal leaders from neighboring nations, including the White Earth Nation and Leech Lake, joined the procession, reaffirming the enduring legacy of Native presence in the city.

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan honored the occasion with her presence, recognizing MAIC's vital role in supporting the urban American Indian population. As the parade culminated at the doors of the newly renovated MAIC, guests were greeted with a palpable sense of anticipation and excitement.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony, a moment of reflection and celebration, featured Chairman Kevin Dupuis Sr. as one of the esteemed tribal leaders to speak at the event. Chairman Dupuis shared heartfelt reflections on his upbringing in St. Paul and the profound impact that MAIC had on his life, highlighting the center's enduring legacy of community support and empowerment.

With the renovations to the MAIC, the building's footprint expanded by about 20,000 square feet, creating a vibrant space that embodies the spirit of community and cultural preservation. Visitors are now welcomed into an environment that offers an array of amenities, including rooms, offices, kitchen space, a community gym, the MAIC gift shop, and the Gatherings Café, all designed to foster a welcoming space for Native relatives in the Minneapolis area.

For those interested in learning more about the Minneapolis American Indian Center and supporting their continued efforts, please visit www.maicnet.org. Donations can be made at www.maicnet.org/donate/.