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Fight For Justice Tribal Takeover Collection MS-696

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English
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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton 49931

copper@mtu.edu

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Fight For Justice Tribal Takeover Collection
ID:	MS-696
Date [inclusive]:	1962-2008
Date [bulk]:	1999-2003
Physical Description:	2.27 Cubic Feet 7 manuscript boxes (6 letter and one half letter size)
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-7
Abstract:	Collection, 1981-2003, of the grassroots organization, Fight For Justice, whose membership included tribal elders, men, women and children of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Assinins, Michigan. Includes transcripts and audio recordings with fifteen people involved in the takeover of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Center. Also includes information on the initial takeover of the center and the aftermath, consequences and opinions of the takeover as well as tribal history, elections and enrollments papers, casino information and an outline of Tribal Council chairman Fred Dakota's trial for receiving casino kickbacks and income tax fraud.

Preferred Citation

MS-696, Fight For Justice Tribal Takeover Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Biography

On August 22, 1995, a group of Ojibwa tribal members barricaded itself inside the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Center in Assinins, Michigan. The stand-off stemmed from a December 1994 election in which members of the tribe were stripped of their voting rights. A grassroots organization, Fight For Justice, was formed which consisted of elders, men, women and children of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community as well as other Native Americans and Non-Native American. The tribal members felt that losing their voting rights was no different than losing their tribal membership. It started out as a peaceful stand but escalated over several weeks with violence including one man being hospitalized, a bomb being set off on US Highway 41, and allegations of police brutality. The standoff lasted until February 4, 1997 when Fred Dakota, tribal chairman, and other tribal officials, retook the center.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

Includes transcripts and audio recordings with fifteen people involved in the Fight for Justice takeover of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Center. Also includes information on the initial takeover of the center and the aftermath, consequences and opinions of the takeover as well as tribal history, elections and enrollments papers, casino information and an outline of Tribal Council chairman Fred Dakota's trial for receiving casino kickbacks and income tax fraud.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into ten series:

1. Oral history Interviews and Transcripts, 1998-2008
2. Tribe History, 1962; 1973-2003
3. Casino History, 1981-1998
4. Tribal Elections, 1982-1996
5. Frederick Dakota's Trial, 1995-1997
6. Tribal Enrollment, 1965-1997
7. Tribal Center Takeover, 1990-2000
8. Occupation, 1994-1997
9. Takeover Aftermath, 1982-1997
10. General Records, 1982- c.2002

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections. The Don Chosa interview located in Series 10: General Records is closed until a release form can be obtained.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Indians of North America -- Tribal citizenship
- Indian activists -- Michigan -- Assinins
- Assinins (Mich.)
- Casinos -- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan
- Transcripts
- Oral histories
- Membership lists
- Histories
- Newsletters
- Correspondence
- Clippings (Information artifacts)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Oral History Interviews and Transcripts, 1998-2008

Scope and Contents

This series includes cassette tapes containing oral history accounts of those who were involved with the tribal center takeover and transcriptions.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview- Bressette, Gloria, Mar 1999	box 1	folder 1
Interview-Cardinal, Bill, Oct 2007-Nov 2007	box 1	folder 2
Interview-Curtis, Jerry Lee (Alice), May 1998	box 1	folder 3
Interview-Edwards, Nancy, Feb 2003, Jun 2004	box 1	folder 4
Interview-Edwards, Rose, 1999, 2003	box 1	folder 5
Interview-Emery, Georgianna, 1999, 2002	box 1	folder 6
Interview-Gauthier, Allen, 1999, 2002, 2007	box 1	folder 7
Interview-Hadden, Alice, 1998-1999	box 1	folder 8
Interview-Jermac, Virginia (Ginny), 2003, 2007	box 1	folder 9
Interview-Larkin, Stella, 2002, 2008	box 1	folder 10
Interview-Matthews, Elizabeth, 1999, 2003	box 1	folder 11
Interview-Picard, Louis, 1999, 2003	box 1	folder 12
Interview-Simula, Vern, 2003	box 1	folder 13
Interview-Welsh, Helene, 1998, 1999	box 1	folder 14
Interview-Van Abel, Jim, 2003	box 1	folder 15
Interview-Tolonen, Myrtle, 1998, 2002	box 1	folder 16
Interview-Bressette, Gloria, Mar 1999	box 7	folder 1
Interview-Curtis, Karen, c. 1999	box 7	folder 2
Interview-Edwards, Nancy, 2/14/2003	box 7	folder 3
Interview-Edwards, Rose, 2/14/2003	box 7	folder 4
Interview-Emery, Georgianna, 2/04/1999	box 7	folder 5
Interview-Gauthier, Allen, 3/30/1999	box 7	folder 6
Interview-Jermac, Virginia (Ginny), 2/20/2003	box 7	folder 7
Interview-Larkin, Stella, 1/10/2002	box 7	folder 8

Interview-Picard, Louis, Jul 1999	box 7	folder 10
Interview-Simula, Vern, 2003	box 7	folder 11
Interview-Welsh, Helene, 5/28/1998	box 7	folder 12

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Series II: Tribe History, 1962; 1973-2003, (1996-2003)

Scope and Contents

Items found in this series includes agreements, minutes, historical narratives, employment dismissal records, chronologies, and a tribal council composition.

Title/Description	Instances	
Organizational Agreements/ Minutes, 1996, 1999	box 2	folder 1
Project Planning Documents, App. 1999	box 2	folder 2
Source Referral/ Chronologies, App. 1999	box 2	folder 3
History/ Narrative Outline Preface Reflections, 1999	box 2	folder 4
History/ Narrative, 8/08/2003	box 2	folder 5
Alotment History-"The Chippewa Land of Keweenaw Day", 4/30/1981	box 2	folder 6
History/ Treaties, 1962, 1992, 1996	box 2	folder 7
History-Tribe Traditions, 1973-1982	box 2	folder 8
History-Ojibwa Language, 1996-1997	box 2	folder 9
History-Sovereignty and Civil Rights, 1998	box 2	folder 10
Criteria/ Evidence-Tribe Acknowledgement, c. 1994	box 2	folder 11
Employment-General, 1995-1999	box 2	folder 12
Chuck Loonsfoot, Unemployment Compensation, 10/19/1995	box 2	folder 13
Tribal Council Composition, 1981-1998	box 2	folder 14

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Series III: Casino History, 1981-1998

Scope and Contents

Newspaper clippings, Chippewa tribe profiles, Indian gaming regulations and resources, correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Casino Background Misc., 1981-1996	box 3	folder 1
Dakota Casino-Legal Precedent, 11/12/1995	box 3	folder 2
Casino-General, 1993	box 3	folder 3
Casino-General, 1993-1997	box 3	folder 4
Casino General, 1994-1995	box 3	folder 5
Casino Newspaper Clippings Prior to August 1984, 1984	box 3	folder 6
Casino Newspaper Clippings, Aug 1984-Dec 1985	box 3	folder 7
Casino Newspaper Clippings, 1986-1987	box 3	folder 8
Casino Newspaper Clippings, 1988-1990	box 3	folder 9
Casino Newspaper Clippings, 1991-1993	box 3	folder 10
Casino Newspaper Clippings, 1994-1998	box 3	folder 11

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Series IV: Tribal Elections, 1982-1996

Scope and Contents

Items in this series include, but are not limited to rules governing Tribal Council elections, newspaper clippings, correspondence, letter from Fight for Justice protesting the September 16, 1995 Tribal Council special election, Tribal Council Minutes.

Title/Description	Instances	
Tribal Election Committee, 1994	box 3	folder 12
Tribal Special Elections, 1995	box 3	folder 13
Tribal Election, Mar 1996	box 3	folder 14
Tribal Election 1996 General, 1996	box 3	folder 15
Special Election-Funke 1995, 1995	box 3	folder 16
Election Newspaper Clippings 1984 and Prior, 1982-1984	box 3	folder 17
Election Newspaper Clippings, 1985-1994	box 3	folder 18
Corporation, 1994	box 3	folder 19

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Series V: Frederick Dakota's Trial, 1995-1997

Scope and Contents

This series includes newspaper clippings, Frederick Dakota's indictment and other court records, and Frederick Dakota's life information.

Title/Description	Instances	
Frederick Dakota's Trial, 1996	box 3	folder 20
Dakota Defamation, 1995	box 3	folder 21
Dakota Records, 1996	box 3	folder 22
Dakota Sovereignty, 1996-1997	box 3	folder 23
Dakota Conviction, 1997	box 3	folder 24
Council Response to Dakota Indictment, 1996-1997	box 3	folder 25
Dakota Life Information, 3/22/1996	box 3	folder 26

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Series VI: Tribal Enrollment, 1965-1997**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence and newspaper clippings regarding membership, enrollment, adoption, KBIC motions and vote counts, and correspondence and a press release regarding the constitutional convention.

Title/Description	Instances	
Enrollment Ordinance, 1997	box 4	folder 1
William Thorne, 1995, 1997	box 4	folder 2
Membership, 1975-1989	box 4	folder 3
Enrollment Correspondence, 1965-1995	box 4	folder 4
Audit, 1994-1995	box 4	folder 5
Enrollment: Tolonen, Myrtle, 1995	box 4	folder 6
Enrollment History, 1976-1990	box 4	folder 7
Constitutional Convention, 1995	box 4	folder 8
BIA Disenrollment Letter KB 467-95 & KB 501-95, 1995, 1999	box 4	folder 9
Adoption Proposal, 1995	box 4	folder 10
Lac Vieux Desert Committee Report, 1988	box 4	folder 11

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Series VII: Tribal Center Takeover, 1990-2000

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence concerning negotiation and the Loonsfoot lawsuit, copies of the Ojibwegwin Debwe newsletter, newsprint about the takeover, and "KBIC Happenings" printed from the Rose Edwards website.

Title/Description	Instances	
Loonsfoot Suit, 1990-2000	box 4	folder 12

Scope and Contents

Items found in this series include the Ojibwegwin Debwe newsletter, a petition for amendment to the KBIC constitution, negotiation correspondence and "KBIC Happenings" from Rose Edwards website.

Ojibwegwin Debwe Newsletter, 1997	box 4	folder 13
Ojibwegwin Debwe Newsletter , 1998	box 4	folder 14
Petition for Amendment, 1995	box 4	folder 15

Scope and Contents

Items found in this series includes newspaper clippings, Loonsfoot suit court records, press releases, Ojibwegwin Debwe newsletter, and affidavits from tribe members wanting to remove their signatures from a petition to amend the constitution.

The Takeover-Daily Mining Gazette Clippings, 1995-1996	box 4	folder 16
Negotiations-Correspondence, Press Releases, Newspaper Clippings, 1995-1996	box 4	folder 18
"KBIC Happenings"-Rose Edwards Account, 1996	box 4	folder 18

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Series VIII: Occupation, 1994-1997

Scope and Contents

Items found in this series include newspaper clippings, The Ojibwe News, and correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Fundraising-Fight for Justice, Approximately 1994	box 5	folder 1
Casino Blockade, 1996	box 5	folder 2
Living Together, Approximately 1995	box 5	folder 3
Tribal Washington visit, 1995	box 5	folder 4

Preliminary Takeover Newsletter Clippings, 1995	box 5	folder 5
Fight for Justice Offer to Buy Building from KBIC, 9/22/1995	box 5	folder 6
Media, 1995-1996	box 5	folder 7
Public Perception-Newspaper Clippings, 1995-1996	box 5	folder 8
Stolen Property, 7/17/1996	box 5	folder 9
KBIC Response to the Takeover, 1995	box 5	folder 10
Takeover Record Removal, 1996	box 5	folder 11
U-Haul Trucks, 1996-1997	box 5	folder 12
Assault, 1996	box 5	folder 13

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Series IX: Takeover Aftermath, 1982-1997

Scope and Contents

Fight for Justice Surveillance log, correspondence, newspaper clippings, special election affidavits, Civil Suit Case No.97-185C, and KBIC vs. U.S.A. No. 2:96-CV-179.

Title/Description	Instances	
Raid , Sep 1996	box 5	folder 14
Jerry Lee Curtis Warrant Issued, 1996	box 5	folder 15
Surveillance Log, 1995	box 5	folder 16
Violence-Fight for Justice-After the Assault, 6/11/1996	box 5	folder 17
John Hascall, 1996-1997	box 5	folder 18
Witnesses, 1996-1997	box 5	folder 19
Police, 1996	box 5	folder 20
Paul Halverson, 1996	box 5	folder 21
"It's Over"-Newspaper Clippings, Correspondence, Press Releases, 1997	box 5	folder 22
Special Election Affidavits, 1995	box 5	folder 23
American Indian Movement, 1995	box 5	folder 24
All Affidavits, 1996	box 5	folder 25
Civil Suit Case No. 97-185C, 1997	box 5	folder 26
Economic Development Newspaper Clippings, 1982-1995	box 5	folder 27
Land Dispute Newspaper Clippings, 1986, 1993	box 5	folder 28

Free Press Clippings, 1996	box 5	folder 29
KBIC Vs. USA Case No. 2:96-CV-179, 1995-1996	box 5	folder 30

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Series X: General Records, 1982- c.2002

Scope and Contents

Items found in this series includes primarily corespondence and newspaper clippings.

Title/Description	Instances	
Gary Loonsfoot Correspondence, 1995-1997	box 6	folder 1
Michael Chosa, 1996	box 6	folder 2
Joseph O'Leary-Tribal Attorney for KBIC, 1991-1996	box 6	folder 3
Opinion Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Letters to Editor, 1996-1997	box 6	folder 4
Chosa, Bressette, Welsh Clippings, 1995-1996	box 6	folder 5
Pow Wow, 1995-1996	box 6	folder 6
Chosa, Don Interview, c. 2002	box 6	folder 7
Garoux, Rick Opinion, 1995	box 6	folder 8
St. Arnold Report, 1982-1984	box 6	folder 9
Senior Citizens, 1995	box 6	folder 10
Youth Mental Health Newspaper Clippings, 1997	box 6	folder 11
Casino Profits Distributed, 1994	box 6	folder 12
Marquette Casino, 1994	box 6	folder 13
Hascall Stories, c. 2002	box 6	folder 14

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