

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

1720 Big Lake Rd.
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone (218) 879-4593
Fax (218) 879-4146

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rita Karppinen
Phone: (218) 269-2379
Email: RitaKarppinen@FDLREZ.COM

Fond du Lac Doula Set to Receive National Award

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, MN – June 4th, 2021 Fond du Lac (FDL) Band member and doula Tammy Dixon has been selected to receive the prestigious Tribal Trailblazer award for the 2021 National Breastfeeding Conference and Convening (NBCC).

The Tribal Trailblazer award is for individuals of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian heritage who are actively involved in collaborative efforts to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding communities.

Dixon is certified by Doulas of North America and she has an Indigenous Breastfeeding Counselor certification. Some of her client services include prenatal education, birth plans, labor/delivery support, breastfeeding, and supporting women with pregnancy and infant loss.

“When a woman is in labor, she is at her most powerful state, it can help having a doula there to reassure them that their body is doing what it needs to do,” says Dixon. “Being a part of this special time in their lives is magical and an honor.”

After Dixon had her own birthing and breastfeeding experience, she knew she wanted to help others with theirs. Over the last twelve years, she has worked diligently to inform herself about modern medical practices and how they intersect with cultural traditions that help expecting mothers ease anxiety and create a stronger sense of community.

“I’m always learning more and more about our Native culture because I was not brought up with that education,” says Dixon. “Participating in Native traditions makes me feel like I am a part of a community and it’s a beautiful thing because I know it’s our cellular memory or something awakening in us. When I’m assisting with a birth, I know that that’s where I’m supposed to be at that moment. We are the only mammal that questions our ability to give birth and if more women encouraged each other to believe in their own power, we could do anything.”

Dixon has provided education and support to more than 200 clients through their birthing journeys.

In the future, Dixon hopes that the FDL doula program can provide even more education and support services to expecting families.



Chairman
Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr.

Secretary/Treasurer
Ferdinand Martineau, Jr.

Dist. I Representative
Wally J. Dupuis

Dist. II Representative
Bruce M. Savage

Dist. III Representative
Roger M. Smith, Sr.

Executive Director,
Tribal Programs
Miyah M. Danielson

Executive Director,
Tribal Enterprises
Terry Savage

If you are interested in receiving doula services, individuals must meet program eligibility requirements at the Fond du Lac Human Services Division, please call 218-879-1227.

Tammy is set to receive her award during the virtual conference in early June.

<Picture attached: Fond du Lac Doula Tammy Dixon>

About Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Nagaajiwanaang; where the water stops) is one of six Chippewa Indian Bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Fond du Lac Reservation was established by the La Pointe Treaty of 1854. Archaeologists, however, maintain that ancestors of the present-day Chippewa (Ojibwe) have resided in the Great Lakes areas since 800 A.D. The Band includes 4,200 members.

###