



Austin A. Lowes

Tribal Chairman

Office of the Chairman

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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE – RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Administration:** Presides over all meetings of the Board of Directors and exercises lawful authority delegated to the Chairman by the Board of Directors. Works in partnership with the executive team to ensure that government programs, enterprises, and Tribal interests run efficiently and within budget, policy and procedure.
- **Membership issues:** The Chairman has three membership liaisons that work in different geographical areas within the seven-county service area. Michelle Moore works in Sault Ste. Marie, Clarence Hudak serves St. Ignace, and Mary Jenerou covers two offices in the western Upper Peninsula. They are available to assist Tribal members who have issues with a Tribal Department. They also connect Tribal members to Tribal resources and refer them to the Tribal departments who can best assist them.
- **Committees:** Chairman Lowes is the President of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM), Chairman of the Kewadin Gaming Authority, and the Vice Chairman of Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA).
- **Other Functions:** Chairman Lowes attends many tribal functions throughout the state of Michigan. He attends Pow-Wows, dedications, elder meetings/luncheons, and membership meetings. He is frequently requested to provide speeches and keynote address to spread awareness about Tribal issues.

CHAIRPERSON – BIO HIGHLIGHTS

Chairman Lowes is in his first term as Chairperson of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He was first elected to the Sault Tribe Board of Directors in 2020. In 2022, he was elected by the Sault Tribe membership to complete the previous Chairperson's vacated term.

Chairman Lowes received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Lake Superior State University, along with a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Michigan State University. As graduate student, he was awarded a graduate health fellowship from the National Congress of American Indians. Chairman Lowes began his career as a social worker. He has worked on the Sault Tribe, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. This experience provided valuable insight into the needs of Indigenous communities. During his time in Montana, he received the Governor's Award of Excellence in Performance.

Chairman Lowes is passionate about increasing the Sault Tribe's land base, meeting the Sault Tribe's housing needs, emergency and transitional housing services, substance abuse services, and an equitable distribution of resources for members living outside the Sault Tribe's service area. Chairman Lowes was instrumental in establishing the first tribal homeless shelter in Michigan. This shelter, known as the Lodge of Hope, opened in 2023 and has provided a safe space for tribal families to get back on their feet with dignity.

Chairman Lowes resides in Sault Ste. Marie with his fiancé, Tara, and his two daughters, Emilia and Eden.