

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.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fond du Lac Band strengthens efforts to locate missing relative, Peter Michael Martin.

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – Cloquet, Minnesota (March 28, 2024) As of Friday, March 22, search and rescue efforts for Peter Michael Martin had been suspended, due to winter weather conditions and out of respect for the wishes of Peter's family, until the week of April 1st.

Prior to Friday, March 22, over 1000 acres of various terrain in the Mahnomen neighborhood of the Fond du Lac Reservation were searched, with 2500 hours of support from community volunteers, Fond du Lac Police Department (FDLPD) and other agencies.

At this moment, search and rescue operations, as well as investigation efforts, have yielded no results, and Peter remains missing. However, the Fond du Lac Band remains dedicated to assisting the family and locating missing relative, Peter Michael Martin.

On Thursday, March 28, the Fond du Lac Band activated a complete Emergency Operations Center (EOC) process to boost its search for Peter Michael Martin. The Fond du Lac Band's EOC process requires all divisions of the tribal nation to donate all available resources to meet the process's specific needs. With this shift, the Fond du Lac Band expands its capacity to search across the entire Fond du Lac Reservation and surrounding areas of interest, while also enhancing its efforts through the utilization of its staff members' technical skills, knowledge and abilities.

"I've been able to search acres and acres for my brother, Peter, alongside volunteers and Fond du Lac Police officers. As search efforts increase, our family and I remain assured that our tribe will continue to work through a process will bring my brother home."

- Linda Martin-Proulx, sister of Peter Michael Martin and family spokesperson.

Along with the activation of the Fond du Lac Band's full EOC process, the FDLPD continues to support the ongoing missing persons investigation through investigation into all leads provided to 911, FDLPD, and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. The FDLPD continues to request that anyone with information on Peter Michael Martin's location contact one of these official agencies.

"Our investigation efforts are supported by highly trained officers, many from the Fond du Lac tribal community, and I have full confidence in our agency and our investigation division to utilize all available resources, which includes outside agencies, to support locating Mr. Martin."

– Mel Barney, Chief of the Fond du Lac Police Department.

The Fond du Lac Band and Peter Michael Martin's family are extremely grateful for the ongoing efforts of outside agencies that continue to collaborate with the tribe in search and rescue efforts, as well as the hundreds of community volunteers and Fond du Lac Band employees who have given of their time, energy, and expertise to support all efforts to locate missing relative, Peter Michael Martin.

"The Fond du Lac Band remains committed to exhausting all efforts to bring our relative home, and as a sovereign nation, we respect the decisions and approaches of our FDL Police Department and Emergency

Management division. Our thoughts, tobacco, and prayers remain with Peter's family and the entire community. Miigwech to everyone for their support."

- Kevin Dupuis Sr., Chairman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

The Fond du Lac Band wishes to remind everyone that Peter is more than a missing person. Missing relative, Peter Martin Michael, a 31-year-old Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa tribal member, is a father, brother, uncle, friend, 2011 Albrook (Southridge) High School graduate, an avid basketball player, one who loves being among the wild rice, and an important part to the community and his family.

To assist with locating Peter Michael Martin, his family, and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, request that anyone with information on his whereabouts call 911, the Fond du Lac Police Department, or the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and reference case #24032470.

Fond du Lac Police Department | 218-878-8040 St. Louis County Sheriff's Office | 218-726-2340

To stay connected to all **Missing Relative Updates** & **Volunteer Requests** please visit the Fond du Lac Band's website (<u>fdlrez.com</u>) or our social media channels, including Facebook, please search Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

For all Press and Media Inquiries, please contact, Caleb Dunlap, Communications Director for the Fond du Lac Band at <u>calebdunlap@fdlrez.com</u> or 218-481-2814.

