



Huron Potawatomi, Inc.

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi

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Date

February 10, 2009

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**Huron Band Leader is honored by National
Organization as “Tribal Leader of the Year”**

Spurr Recognized for Efforts to Develop FireKeepers Casino

Fulton, MI --- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribal Chair Laura Spurr has been selected as one of two “Tribal Leaders of the Year” by The Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) for her efforts to develop FireKeepers Casino. Spurr is being honored today at the NAFOA’s Winter Conference for Indian Country to be held at the Paris Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Tribal Leader of the Year award is a distinguished honor that is bestowed upon two individuals who have made a difference in their community through perseverance, creativity and outstanding public service.

Spurr has worked for nearly 10 years to place the Huron Band’s land into federal trust in order to advance the Tribe and the local community. As the Tribe’s FireKeepers Casino readies for its’ summer opening, Spurr plans to continue the Tribe’s successes in economic development to provide new opportunities to both the Tribe and community.

David Lomax, President of Native American Finance Officers Association praises Spurr as a force to be reckoned with. “Despite massive opposition and an uphill battle, she succeeded in making the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi’s dream of a casino a reality. Soft-spoken, and with a killer sense of humor, Chairperson Spurr is unstoppable as she guides her Tribe’s progress and fights to improve the lives of her Tribal members.”

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Spurr has served on the Tribal Council since June 1999. During this time, she has served as Chair from 2000-2001, Treasurer from 2001-2003, and has been Chair from 2003 to present.

Spurr has made hiring Tribal and local workers a priority in the construction of the \$300 million FireKeepers Casino, located near Battle Creek along Interstate 94 at Exit 104. FireKeepers is employing 700 construction workers and a job recruitment effort is underway to hire 1,500 employees to work at the casino.

Laura is a full-blooded Native American, and one-half Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi. After graduating from Athens High School, she enrolled in the University of Michigan, and was awarded a B.S. in Nursing. She began her nursing career at the University of Michigan hospital. Laura has more than 35 years of experience working as a nurse in different practice settings.

NAFOA is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 1982 with the mission to improve the quality of financial and business management of tribal governments, their entities and their businesses. NOFOA provides resources, training and educational opportunities in business and finance to Native people.

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