

# 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, Communications Director  
Phone: (218) 269-2379  
Email: [RitaKarppinen@FDLREZ.com](mailto:RitaKarppinen@FDLREZ.com)



## **FDL Commissions First-Ever Tesla Supercharger at a Tribal Casino**

**Fond du Lac Band (FDL) of Lake Superior Chippewa, MN, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 –**

Last week, FDL's Black Bear Casino and Resort revved up the first-ever Tesla Supercharger installed within a tribal casino property. The Supercharger will augment the other electric vehicle charging stations within the Black Bear facility. Customers driving any electric vehicle will have access to the full complement of car charging available to the market.

Superchargers allow Tesla electric vehicle drivers to charge their vehicles in less than an hour and in some cases top up in just a few minutes. For reference, a single charge lets drivers of some Tesla models go from Duluth to Minneapolis and back without needing to recharge.

Although some would-be early adopters of electric vehicles fret about "range anxiety," the term coined to describe worries about charging station access, it appears that some of those concerns have begun to dissipate within some sectors of the American population. The increased interest in electric vehicles is largely due to the breakneck speed at which charging networks have expanded, paired with the quickly advancing electric vehicle technologies that depend on them.

The FDL Supercharger stall was designed and built with Tesla's Cybertruck in mind and therefore it has unique advantages over other charging stalls, particularly for long distance drivers with towing gear attached to their vehicles. "We know that Tesla drivers are very enthusiastic early adopters and there has already been buzz surrounding the details of this Supercharger because it is a 'pull through' instead of a 'pull up' stall, meaning you don't have to drive in and back out when you use it," says Terry Savage, Executive Director of Tribal Enterprises.

The Band envisions continuing to implement clean energy advancements as part of a comprehensive approach to address climate change. In 2007, FDL adopted the Kyoto Protocol and developed strategies to reduce fossil fuels by 50 percent, while decreasing carbon emissions by 80 percent. The ultimate goal is to be carbon neutral in the near future.

"The Fond du Lac government and its enterprises are making great strides in reducing our carbon footprint with cleaner technologies," says Terry Savage. "It is the Band's pleasure to team up with Tesla. Having the Tesla Supercharger

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**

operational at the Black Bear Casino and Resort will assist travelers to and from their destination with a convenient, safe and incredibly fast option to charge their zero-emissions vehicles.”

Electric vehicle chargers and other clean energy upgrades within the reservation were executed as part of FDL’s ongoing commitment to being a good steward of land, air and water. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially inaugurate the Supercharger is planned for Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Black Bear Casino and Resort. Media is welcomed and is encouraged to RSVP to Rita Karppinen via email.

### **About Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**

The Fond du Lac Band (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.

###