



**FOUR WINDS CASINO
RESORT AND THE POKAGON
BAND OF POTAWATOMI**



THE LONG ROAD TO OPENING

- ✘ The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi has endured a 12 year long struggle towards opening Four Winds Casino Resort
 - + Numerous court battles
 - + Opposition from community and other interest groups
- ✘ September 1994: Pokagon Restoration Act signed by President Clinton
 - + Enabled the Tribe to use gaming to support its tribal government and acquire a reservation in its aboriginal territory in Southwestern Michigan.
- ✘ November 1994: Pokagon Band members authorize Tribal Council to pursue a casino as a source of revenue
- ✘ September 1995: Gaming compact signed by Michigan Governor John Engler
- ✘ May 1996: New Buffalo Township chosen as casino site
- ✘ December 1998: Michigan legislature approves gaming compact for Pokagon Band
- ✘ January 2000: Ingham County Circuit judge rules the gaming compact invalid
- ✘ February 2000: Land secured to build Four Winds Casino
- ✘ December 2000: Agreements reached to expand municipal sewer and water systems

THE LONG ROAD TO OPENING

- ✘ January 2001: Bureau of Indian Affairs files intent to take land into trust
- ✘ February 2001: Taxpayers of Michigan against Casinos (TOMAC) files suite against the BIA, putting land in trust issue on hold
- ✘ May 2002: U.S. District judge dismisses three of TOMAC's four legal challenges
- ✘ November 2002: Michigan Court of Appeals reverses the Ingham County Circuit Court decision that invalidated the Pokagon gaming compact
- ✘ January 2003: Federal judge dismisses environmental issues raised by TOMAC; lets stand socioeconomic concerns on New Buffalo
- ✘ March 2004: BIA files amended economic assessment with federal judge

THE LONG ROAD TO OPENING

- ✘ February 2005: U.S. Supreme Court rules not to hear TOMAC's challenge to Michigan tribal compacts
- ✘ March 2005: U.S. District judge throws out TOMAC's last complaint, removing an order preventing the BIA from taking land into trust
- ✘ May 2005: TOMAC appeals ruling
- ✘ January 2006: Federal appeals court throws out TOMAC legal challenge, ending TOMAC's battle against Four Winds
- ✘ June 2006: Ground breaking at Four Winds Casino



FOUR WINDS CASINO OPENS

- ✘ The \$400 million complex with over 130,000 square feet of gaming space comes to fruition in summer 2007
- ✘ July 31, 2007: Tribal Family Day
 - + Pokagon Tribal members tour facilities before open to the public
- ✘ August 1, 2007: Ribbon cutting ceremonies
- ✘ August 2, 2007: Four Winds opens to the public
 - + Features 3,000 slot machines, 100 table games and the Midwest's only World Poker Tour poker room
 - + Six restaurants, four retail stores, and 165 room hotel complement the gaming choices
 - + Record crowds over opening weekend
- ✘ 18,000 people applied for positions at Four Winds
- ✘ Over 2,400 new jobs created in the region



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- ✘ 12% of electronic gaming revenue given back to community
 - + 8% given to the state for economic development
 - + 2% to local community through Local Revenue Sharing Board to offset any impact to local infrastructure
 - + 2% to the Pokagon Fund
 - ✘ Non-profit organization that aims to enhance the lives of the residents in the New Buffalo region through the financial support of local governments, nonprofit, charities and other organizations
 - ✘ “In addition to being a concrete offer of friendship to the community, the (Pokagon) fund will help to build sound relationships. For the Four Winds to get off to such a positive start is both generous and wise.”
 - ✘ *South Bend Tribune* Editorial, October 14, 2007



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✘ The Four Winds Casino Resort has created over 1,000 construction jobs, 2,400 casino jobs, and thousands of spin-off jobs in the region.

- ✘ “The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians casino already has been a boon to a part of the state that has suffered major job erosion over the past two decades. It employs 2,400 people, many of them local residents.”
 - + (*Business Review of Western Michigan*, October 25, 2007.)

- ✘ Several Chicago-based retail builders are considering adding shopping centers in New Buffalo in areas around Four Winds:
 - + One developer plans for a \$100-million mixture of condominiums, single-family homes and a shopping center of 80,000 square feet
 - + Another developer is negotiating for a 75-acre tract that would be developed as a larger mall
 - ✘ (*Crain's Chicago Business*, May 14, 2007)



REVITALIZE TRIBAL NATION

- ✘ Proceeds from the Four Winds Casino Resort will fund programs that will revitalize language, restore culture and develop a greater sense of the Native American community
- ✘ The Pokagon Band tribal government will also use funds for improved health services, social services, educational services and to buy more lands and develop them with housing
- ✘ Four Winds Casino Resort features several elements that embody Pokagon Band history and traditions including stone, copper, cedar and birch, which are materials used in many tribal ceremonies

