



Date: 18 November 2011

To: Supervisor Lee Holloway, County Board Chairman

From: Ellen Censky, Ph.D., Senior Vice President/Academic Dean, Milwaukee Public Museum
censky@mpm.edu, 414-278-2786

Subject: **Approval to deaccession and repatriate Native American artifacts in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 25 U.S.C. 3001**

The Milwaukee Public Museum has received a formal request to repatriate items from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. All explanatory materials regarding these two requests are attached.

All necessary investigation has been done on these requests to confirm that the material falls within the guidelines of what may be repatriated in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 25 U.S.C. 3001.

This repatriation and deaccession request has been approved by all the required staff at the Milwaukee Public Museum and was approved by the MPM Board of Directors at the November 17th, 2011 meeting. As policy states, we are now requesting approval for repatriation and permission to deaccession from the Milwaukee County Board and would like these items to be presented at the next possible Milwaukee County Parks, Energy & Environment Committee for initial approval.

Fiscal note

The resolution has no fiscal impact.

Upon these final approvals, please indicate the date approved and return these signed documents to:

Claudia Jacobson
Registrar
Milwaukee Public Museum
800 W. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 52213

c: County Executive Chris Able
Supervisor Gerry Broderick, Chairman, Parks, Energy and Environment
Terrance Cooley, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Linda Durham, Parks Committee Clerk

Resolution to Milwaukee County Board for Repatriation of Items to Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

A Resolution

Repatriation of Native American Artifacts

WHEREAS Milwaukee Public Museum, Inc. (the "Corporation") has entered into an agreement with Milwaukee County (the "County") to manage and operate a natural history museum, known as the Milwaukee Public Museum; and

WHEREAS one of the principle responsibilities of the Corporation is to manage the County's collection in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, and adopted standards of national and international museum organizations; and

WHEREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 25 U.S.C. 3001, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians have formally requested artifacts contained within the collection for repatriation and return to their tenancy of origin; and

WHEREAS Corporation staff has determined the items fall within the federal guidelines for repatriation and the Corporation board of directors approved the deaccessioning of these items at their November 17, 2011 meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED Milwaukee County approves the deaccessioning of the requested items by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in accordance with federal law.



REQUEST TO DEACCESSION AND REPATRIATE

The following accession of Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) material has been requested for repatriation. The MPM Repatriation Committee has met and is recommending the deaccessioning and repatriation of the following material.

Please review the form and attached formal review by the curatorial section and sign where indicated if you approve. Following your approvals, please place this request before the MPM Board of Directors and then the Milwaukee County Board. Following all approvals and posting in the Federal Registry (without receiving any challenges to this repatriation), formal deaccessioning and repatriation will be finalized.

GROUP REQUESTING REPATRIATION:

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
PO Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

CURATOR Dawn Scher Thomae SECTION Anthropology DATE 10/26/11

SECTION HEAD Carter Lupton DATE 10/27/11

MATERIAL RECOMMENDED FOR DEACCESSIONING AND REPATRIATION:

Catalog #: E65165 a-e
Accession #: 27301
Culture: Plains Ojibwa - Turtle Mountain
Object: (a) Water Drum (b) fastening ring (c) drumstick (d) drumhead (e) flour sack

Recommended by MPM Repatriation Committee on September 8, 2011

APPROVED: MPM Vice President Academic Affairs Ellen J. Censky, PhD Date 27 Oct 11

APPROVED President/CEO Jay Williams Date 10/31/11

ACTION BY MPM Board of Directors Resolution Approved Date: 11/17/11

ACTION BY Milwaukee County Parks Committee and County Board of Supervisors:
Date:

Milwaukee Public Museum

Request for Repatriation

Requesting Tribe: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Prepared by Dawn Scher Thomae, Collections Manager, MPM Anthropology Department

BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee Public Museum was informed in an e-mail dated 3 August 2011 that the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians was seeking repatriation of the following material:

Catalog #: E65165 a-e
Accession #: 27301
Culture: Plains Ojibwa – Turtle Mountain
Object: (a) Water Drum (b) fastening ring (c) drumstick (d) drumhead (e) flour sack

The above items are being claimed under Section 3001(3) C of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Public Law 101-601) as a **sacred item**.

Sacred Objects: Specific ceremonial objects which are needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present day adherents. [25 USC 3001 (3)(C)]

The above material was collected by anthropologist James Howard. After his death, private donors raised money to purchase his collection for the Milwaukee Public Museum. The collection came to the museum in December 1985. The James Howard documentation states that the material is “from the Turtle Mountain band of Plains-Ojibwa. They were given to James Howard by Joseph Greatwalker, Rolla, North Dakota, as a Christmas present on December 25, 1960. They were used in the Midewiwin ceremonies of the Turtle Mountain band of Plains-Ojibwa for many years. From the workmanship of the drum one would estimate that it is well over fifty years old. The last Midewiwin rites were held in 1952 or 1953.”

Review of extant documentation, including the museum catalog book, catalog cards, and documentation files indicate that the articles are the property of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and no restrictions of title apply to the disposition of these materials.

EVALUATION

Based on available evidence,

- 1) These items are affiliated with the Turtle Mountain band of Plains-Ojibwa. It would be highly unlikely that other groups would make a case to claim these items.
- 2) It is clearly stated in James Howard’s notes that the drum is associated with the Midewiwin ceremony, an ongoing ritual practice within the tribe.

- 3) Drums of this type are considered sacred by all Ojibwe (Chippewa) groups. The items requested clearly fall under the "sacred" category as defined by NAGPRA statutes.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on these considerations, I recommend that a deaccession request for catalog numbers **E65165 a-e** be placed before the County Parks Board at the next available meeting and that deaccession and repatriation be completed in accordance with established museum and statutory procedures.

ACTION BY MPM REPATRIATION COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting Date: August 30, 2011

Final Review and Recommendation

Recommendation to Repatriate" Approved [X] Denied [] Date 9/08/2011

Additional Information from Catalog Record:

E65165 a-e/27301

Accessioned December 26, 1985. Purchased from

Drum- wood, metal and paint.

Midewiwin drum from the Turtle Mountain band of Plains-Ojibwe. It was given to James Howard by Joseph Greatwalker, Rolla, North Dakota, as a Christmas present on December 25, 1960. It was used in the Midewiwin ceremonies of the Turtle Mountain Plains-Ojibwe for many years. From the workmanship of the drum one would estimate that it is well over fifty years old. The last Midewiwin rites of the Turtle Mountain band were held in 1952 or 1953.