

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE



Dear Tribal Member;

Lios em chania. Greetings from Tribal Council, we hope everyone had a joyous holiday and wish everyone a wonderful and safe new year.

As we are all aware, the entire country has been faced with difficult economic conditions during the past two years. Reports have indicated that during 2008 approximately 2.6 million people lost their jobs throughout America, and that number continues to grow.

The Tribal Government is also experiencing hard times as a result of the economy. We did not end 2008 with strong revenues, and in the first months of 2009 we have seen a continued downturn.

Many tribes throughout the Country are faced with the same situation and some are suffering even worse than we are. Some tribes have slowed or even cancelled important projects and others have laid off employees. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has been fortunate to this point and has not had to make this decision. We are working diligently on your behalf, as we have been for the past couple of years, by formulating a plan of action to deal with this situation.

The Tribal Council has made specific changes, both on the Casino and Tribal Government operations, during the past year to how we do business on a daily basis, to save the Tribe money while still providing needed services such as education and health care. These decisions will not always be popular and some will make many people unhappy, however, as your leaders, we must be fiscally responsible and make decisions that are in the best interest of our Tribal Members.

Therefore tough decisions need to be made. Departments are directed to analyze manpower and seek alternative funding sources such as grants. There will be several projects that we will need to put on hold until the current economic conditions begin to improve. The Casino has been implementing new strategies for over a year and a half. We are asking for your support during this very difficult time.

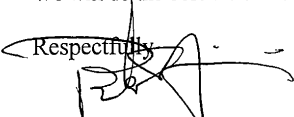
In the long term, we need to look at business in a whole new light. We have not been as fortunate as other tribes to have a large land base and resources such as timber, minerals and sand and gravel. Approximately, Seventy-Five percent of the Tribe's revenues are generated by the Casino and we need to look at ways to diversify our economic base for the future.

It is difficult to say whether we have hit the bottom. If we have, then the economy will soon recover and we can start to rebuild. However, if we have not, then we may have to implement more cuts and cost saving measures and we may have to face even more tough decisions.

Many years ago, our tribal leaders didn't have anything except for the 202 acres of land. They did not give up and so I ask you not to give up either. That is not the Yaqui way. Even during these hard times. I have asked Tribal Council to develop new strategies to cope with the current economic situation. The Tribe has initiated meetings and continues to explore different options.

We will do the best we can on behalf of the Tribe.

Respectfully,


Peter S. Yucupiclo
Chairman of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe