

Aaron is currently the Tribal Chairperson for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He was first elected to this position in 2004 and served a four-year term, was not re-elected in 2008 but returned to office in 2012 and 2016. Prior to serving as Chair in 2004, he served as Tribal Vice Chair for two terms and served on the Tribal board for eight years. Payment has sought to serve his people and educate others of the issues facing his and other tribes through the following leadership roles:

- **1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians (elected)**
- **Vice President, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (elected)**
- **President, United Tribes of Michigan (elected)**
- **Vice-Chair, Bay Mills Community College (appointed)**
- **HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council (appointed)**
- **NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Council, (appointed)**
- **National Advisory Council on Indian Education (Presidential appointment)**
- **Health Research Advisory Council (appointed)**
- **Acting President of the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Board (elected)**

A high school dropout, Payment holds a master's degree in Public Administration; a second master's in Education Administration, a doctorate in Educational Leadership, and is finishing up the requirements for this third master's in (Education Specialist). His employment history includes teaching university level public policy, policy analysis, research and statistics (developed the course), and U.S. American Indian policy. He has served in a number of administrative support service capacities to retain ethnic minority students at Northern Michigan University, Lake Superior State University and Michigan State University. He also previously served as Federal State Policy Administrator, Deputy Executive Director and Judicial Branch Division Director for this Tribe. Over the years, Chairperson Payment has served as a paid and volunteer consultant on tribal issues.

Payment's honors include:

- 2015 National TRiO Achiever
- 2013 Sergeant Shriver Achievement Award
- 1999 Distinguished young Native American Alumni, Northern Michigan University
- 1994 Mid-West TRiO Achiever
- 1986 & 1987 ~ 2 year varsity cross country letter winner & 1987 Academic All American