

Aaron Payment, Chairman, [Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians](#)

Chairperson Aaron Payment serves as Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. With 42,000 members, his Tribe is the largest east of the Mississippi. He has served as a Tribal Council Member, Vice-Chairperson, and is now in his second four-year term as Chairperson.

Chairperson Payment has been in tribal elective office for nearly 14 years. Prior to serving as Chairperson, he worked in higher education directly serving fellow Native Americans. He has also spent six summers coordinating the Michigan Anishnaabe Future Leaders youth training programs and 16 summers as a summer camp counselor for Upward Bound, a TRiO program which served up to 40% Native Americans. For over twenty years, he has provided annual training on Tribal Sovereignty & Government-to-Government relations to future Michigan legislators (16 current serving) through the Michigan Political Leadership Program which is housed out of Michigan State University.

Chairperson Payment serves on the Tribal Interior Budget Council, the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council, Health Research Advisory Counsel, Vice-President of M.A.S.T., and Vice-Chair of the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.