

New Casino planning under way

The building of a Casino and Performing Arts Complex in Swift Current is growing closer to becoming a reality.

File Hill Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, developers of the future facility, are in the preliminary stages of obtaining the gaming license necessary to build and open a casino in the city. Once opened, the casino will be run by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association.

Dean Bellegarde, Tribal Chair of File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, explained that before a gaming license can be granted, a study will be done of the Swift Current area to make sure it is a suitable place for the new facility.

This should be completed by the end of March, and Bellegarde is confident the Tribal Council will receive the okay to construct the impressive complex. According to the summary proposal, the building will include a casino with 150 slot machines and 13 table games, a performing arts centre complete with 700-seat auditorium, and a banquet hall.

Swift Current was chosen for this location not only because of its location on Highway #1, but because of its economic potential.

"The people in the city are the main reason it was chosen," said Bellegarde. "They have shown great enthusiasm and willingness to support this endeavor."

Director of Business Development Marty Salberg said that the casino will be a huge draw for tourism in the city of Swift Current. Existing casinos located in Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw and Regina put Swift Current right in the heart of the casino tour.

"Tourists will be using our services, shopping in the malls or downtown, eating at our restaurants," Salberg said. "Essentially while they're here they'll be spending money."

Bellegarde said the File Hills has been actively scouting Swift Current for possible building sites and have a couple in mind, but they don't have a definite location secured just yet.

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