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Groundbreaking held for new Red Lake convenience store

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On July 26, the groundbreaking for the new Red Lake Reservation Convenience Store near Seven Clans Casino at Red Lake took place. The event happened just north of the reservation line on Hwy. 89, across the highway from Red Lake Builders. The event began with a prayer conducted by Hereditary Chief Sam Smith and the offering of asemaa (tobacco) by all.

“This project shows how we can work together to capitalize and grow our own businesses, increasing employment and opportunity on the reservation and in the surrounding communities,” said Red Lake Chairman Floyd Jourdain Jr. “It’s all about economic development.” Jourdain said the store is needed for members, but will also draw money from casino patrons.

Jourdain’s comments were followed by statements from Seven Clans Casino General Manager Adrian Omen. “We are a bit behind our timeline on this, but we hope to be done by Christmas and I’m going to push for Thanksgiving.”

The groundbreaking was attended by tribal council members, hereditary chiefs, Red Lake Gaming employees, architects and others involved in the planning and building of the convenience store, whom then grabbed shovels and went through the traditional act of shoveling some dirt where the new store will be built.

The convenience store is part of a complex near the south reservation line that includes the casino/hotel/events center, and a new propane plant business to serve the reservation and surrounding area. The store will be near the water tower, (built specifically for the complex).

The retail center will be a full-service store with groceries, gas station, hot food, car wash, and arts and crafts. Red Lake Foods will have items for sale at the retail center including wild rice, famous Red Lake walleye (fresh and frozen), wild berry jams, maple syrup and birch bark crafts.

The store will cover 8,600 square feet, and will be open until midnight, 16 hours a

day. The store will be doing cross promotions with the casino/hotel/events center.