



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Bilingual traffic signs to identify two lakes on the Fond du Lac Reservation

Two lakes on the Fond du Lac Reservation will now be labeled with bilingual signs listing the names in both English and Ojibwe. The new signs are the result of an agreement between St. Louis County and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

County and Fond du Lac leaders will join together for a news conference to unveil the sign for Simian Lake/Chi-wizo-zaaga'iganing on Wednesday, October 22, at 11 a.m. The sign is located on Simon Road (County State Aid Highway 80) in Brevator Township. Another sign identifies Side Lake with the Ojibwe translation Beke-zaagidawaag. It is located on Pine Drive (County Road 851) in Stoney Brook Township.

The Fond du Lac Band asked the county to install bilingual traffic signs to identify natural features such as lakes and rivers, as a way to help preserve the Anishinabe language and culture. The county's Public Works Department is responsible for posting signs along county roads, including those within reservation boundaries. The Band also has a similar agreement for bilingual signs with Carlton County.

Fond du Lac Reservation officials may identify other natural features to be signed in the same way in the future.

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Directions: Simon Road is located approximately 40 minutes from downtown Duluth. Take I-35 south to the Highway 33 exit in Cloquet. Follow Hwy 33 north. Turn left on Big Lake Road (just past Super One) for 2.4 miles. Then turn right on Brevator Road, which becomes County Road 80 for 5.6 miles. Turn left on Simon Road for approximately a half mile.