

BELCOURT RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT FROM USDA

“New water tower provides reliable source of drinking water for local residents.”

Belcourt, November 19, 2008 – Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson today presented a ceremonial check representing a \$1 million Native American Set-Aside Section 306C Grant to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

“Each completed drinking water project means more people will have a better supply of fresh drinking water and a better quality of life,” said Carlson.

The Section 306C Native American Set-Aside funds are specifically intended to



be used for eligible projects that benefit members of Federally Recognized Tribes (Tribal Members). The set-aside is targeted to Tribes that are severely distressed economically, have high unemployment rates and have critical water-related human and environmental health problems.

The million dollar grant from Rural Development, along with \$800,000 from Indian Health Services and \$200,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation, were used to construct Belcourt’s new water tower.



In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development provided **\$38.1 million** in housing programs, **\$54.7 million** in business and community programs, **\$577.5 million** in electric programs, and **\$85.9 million** in telecom programs to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local

USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.