

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

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## SENIOR PRINCESS SIERRA EDWARDS REFLECTIONS ON A ROYAL YEAR

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PINE COUNTY,  
BAND AGREE  
TO WORK  
TOGETHER

CIRCLE OF HEALTH  
CONFERENCE  
FOCUSES ON  
CULTURE

ANGLERS  
HIT QUOTA;  
GOVERNOR  
SAYS "FISH ON"

EDUCATION  
COMMISSIONER  
SEEKS INPUT,  
SHARES VISION

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! August has been a month of non-stop action.

As a government, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will do whatever is necessary to ensure our treaty rights are protected. The Mille Lacs Band – along with Fond du Lac and the Wisconsin Bands -- strongly objected to the State of Minnesota's decision to keep Lake Mille Lacs open for catch-and-release Ogaa (walleye) fishing by non-Indian anglers despite data showing that the State had exceeded its quota. In response to the Bands' objections, the Governor shifted gears and announced that Minnesota would close walleye fishing on September 6th.

Although this decision appears to recognize the significant risks the State's fishery posed to the resource, the Mille Lacs Band remains deeply concerned that the State chose to dramatically exceed its harvest allocation; it is estimated that by the time of the closure the walleye kill in the State's fishery will be nearly double its allocation. This raises serious doubts about the State's commitment to this resource, and its trustworthiness to keep its word when it comes to future agreements. I have personally conveyed these concerns to Governor Dayton.

Mille Lacs Band biologists continue to work with other tribal biologists and GLIFWC to examine the data the State used to justify their decision to exceed its allocation, in violation of its agreement with the Bands and the Court's orders. The biologists will also continue to assess the potential negative impact from the State's overage on the future walleye populations when the final State harvest numbers are known. We will then formulate an appropriate remedy for the State's violation. The Court's orders establish a process for addressing violations, and we will follow that process in close consultation with the other Bands.

As we have for hundreds of years, we remain focused on being responsible stewards of our natural resources, including

Lake Mille Lacs walleye. We continue to believe that it is the shared responsibility of the entire community of people who utilize the lake to prioritize the protection of the walleye for future generations.

Second, we continue to be focused on protecting public safety for all Band Members despite Mille Lacs County's cancellation of our law enforcement agreement. We are continuing our efforts to strengthen the authority of tribal law enforcement officers, including securing federal law enforcement credentials, and are monitoring situations in which the County has failed to provide effective law enforcement services to the Reservation.

A representative from the United States Department of Justice visited the reservation a few weeks ago and invited the Band to enter into mediation with the county, which we agreed to do. Mille Lacs County, however, declined mediation, but still stated it would like to negotiate a new agreement with the Band and would prepare a written proposal for the Band's consideration. The County has now informed us that it wants any negotiations to be confidential. Although we have agreed to this request, the County is seeking an exemption from its obligations under the Public Disclosure Act to ensure confidentiality. To date, we have not received a proposal for a new agreement from the County.

Although we remain open to discussing matters related to how we can improve law enforcement for Band Members and all citizens served by our Tribal Police, we will never compromise our reservation boundary. We will continue to keep Band Members updated as this matter progresses.

On August 3, we held our second Circle of Healing and Strength Conference at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. This was an outstanding conference that focused on finding solutions to the drug problems that plague our reservation. While the first con-

ference focused on the science of addiction, this conference focused on culture. Information was shared about ceremonies, Big Drum teachings and historical perspectives on family violence. I continue to feel hopeful that we will beat this epidemic, but the entire community needs to be involved. Solutions to the drug problem were discussed and information provided about ceremonies, Big Drum teachings and historical perspectives on family violence. Chi Miigwech to Brad Harrington Jr., who did an outstanding job organizing this conference.

Earlier in the month, I hosted a meeting for Minnesota tribes of the Indian Law Resource Center, which I am a board member of. This meeting focused on how tribes can strengthen their sovereignty through working with the United Nations and leveraging the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Finally, many Band women were able to attend an outstanding conference of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN). Miigwech to the local women who assisted with fundraising and planning this conference. Many Band women returned feeling invigorated and ready to meet the challenges facing our families and community.

In closing, one Band woman is making her mark by being the first Band Member to run for the State Legislature. Chilah Brown is the DFL endorsed candidate for the Minnesota State Senate. She has tremendous energy, vision and commitment to public service. It is more important than ever that Band Members get out the vote in November so we can make history and have an ally in the State Legislature! Miigwech!

*Melanie Benjamin*



## Great Turnout for Police Open House

The Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department held an open house on Aug. 3. Officers prepared food for guests, gave tours of the department, and let kids climb on equipment and operate the sirens and lights. Chief Jared Rosati was pleased with the turnout of over 200 — a marked increase over last year's event. He said it was a great show of support from the community at a time when the authority of the Tribal Police has been challenged by Mille Lacs County.

# Pine County, Band Agree to Communicate and Collaborate

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and the four members of the Band Assembly approved a Joint Resolution last month approving a Statement of Principles on Government-to-Government Relations between the Band and Pine County.

At a meeting held at Aazhoomog Community Center on July 26, Melanie and the Pine County Board of Commissioners signed the agreement recognizing each government's unique authority and promising to work together on behalf of all citizens.

The Resolution and Statement of Principles carry no financial commitments or legal obligations but demonstrate mutual respect and a desire for collaboration.

The action came about after Mille Lacs County heard about a similar agreement between Cass County and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Mille Lacs County shared the agreement with the Pine County Board, who approached the Band about creating something similar.

Representatives of the two governments then went to work drafting a Statement of Principles on which both could agree.

The Statement acknowledges the Band's sovereign authority and recognizes both governments' desire to serve the best interests of constituents and improve their quality of life.

Both governments agree on 18 "aspirational principles" including that all persons deserve equal access to justice, public safety, police and fire protection, clean air and water, a sanitary environment, a good education, affordable housing, adequate health care, and good transportation systems.

Both governments also agree that the elderly deserve to live in dignity, that incarcerated persons deserve fair and equitable treatment, and that persons suffering from substance abuse deserve access to treatment.

The final aspirational principle is: "All persons deserve to live without fear or discrimination, to pursue employment, to pursue happiness, to exercise their religion, to have the protection of the law, to maintain their traditions and language, to be healthy, to be safe, and to live from infancy to old age in

peace and tranquility."

The agreement also lays the groundwork for government-to-government communication and cooperation.

The Statement says seeking better communication and understanding would improve relations and services, improve the lives of Band members and all citizens of the county, and reduce tension and conflict, saving both parties time and money.

Mille Lacs County, which includes District I and District IIa and the entire 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation, has a long history of opposition to the Band.

In the 1990s, Mille Lacs County joined other counties in opposing Band members' exercise of 1837 treaty rights, which were reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 2000s, Mille Lacs County brought the Band back to federal court in an unsuccessful attempt to prove the disestablishment of the 1855 reservation.

More recently Mille Lacs County revoked a law enforce-

ment agreement that was one of the few examples of the two governments working together. The revocation came in part because of the U.S. Government's declaration that the 1855 reservation still exists, according to a resolution passed by the Mille Lacs County Board.

Going back further, in 1901 and 1921 two Mille Lacs County Sheriffs were involved in destroying Band members' villages and forcing them from their homes. These incidents were recorded in non-Indian newspapers of the era, including the Princeton Union, the Little Falls Herald, the Minneapolis Journal and the St. Paul Globe.

Aitkin County, which includes the District II community, has denied the Band's request to enter into a law enforcement agreement to allow Tribal Police to better serve County residents.

In contrast, Pine County has a law enforcement agreement with the Band, and with this new agreement has advanced its spirit of cooperation.



Commissioner Josh Mohr, Board Chair Curt Rossow, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Commissioner Matt Ludwig and Commissioner Steve Chaffee met together at the Aazhoomog Community Center on July 26.

## Mille Lacs Reservation Law Enforcement Timeline

*The Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs County are still considering what's next after the County revoked its law enforcement agreement with the Band on June 21 of this year. Although there are no new developments to report for this issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin, the following history of law enforcement on the reservation provides some helpful context for those seeking to understand the issue.*

**1953:** Congress enacted Public Law 280, in part because of the absence of adequate tribal institutions for law enforcement. Public Law 280 applies to six states, including Minnesota. It required the state to assume criminal jurisdiction over all Indian reservations within the state with the exception of Red Lake. That jurisdiction does not extend, however, to criminal statutes the courts would classify as "civil-regulatory" rather than "criminal-prohibitory" under Public Law 280.

**1973:** The Bois Forte Band retroceded Public Law 280, which meant the tribe and federal government exercised criminal jurisdiction on tribal lands. The action was supported by the Minnesota Legislature.

**1975:** The Mille Lacs Band and other members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe considered retrocession from Public Law 280. Retrocession would have given the federal government criminal law enforcement authority on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Retrocession would have required approval of the Minnesota Legislature, which did not occur.

**1991:** The Mille Lacs Band once again began to consider retrocession from Public Law 280. The Mille Lacs County Board unanimously agreed to support retrocession. The Minneso-

ta Department of Public Safety opposed a bill sponsored by Mille Lacs County to allow retrocession. The bill died in the Legislature, but a law was passed, Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, authorizing the Band to start a police force to enforce Minnesota law on the reservation. It was the first agreement of its kind in Minnesota and paved the way for other Bands and counties to create similar agreements. In 1991, the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department had three officers: Monte Fronk, Jim Bankey and Lloyd Ligneel.

**2007:** After nine months of negotiations, the Mille Lacs Band revoked the law enforcement agreement with Mille Lacs County because the County Attorney demanded the ability to see all Tribal Police reports, not just those involving enforcement of state law. In negotiations, the County attempted to limit the Tribal Police Department's jurisdiction to trust lands, although 626.90 specifically allows jurisdiction within the 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation.

**2008:** In January, a new agreement was approved by the Band and County. Under the new agreement, the solicitor general would review all Tribal Police reports but was only required to forward those involving state law enforcement to the Mille Lacs County Attorney for prosecution.

**June 21, 2016:** With no warning and no attempt to resolve issues with the agreement, the Mille Lacs County Board, with support from the County Attorney and Sheriff, voted to revoke the law enforcement agreement, citing the following reasons:

- The Band's attempt to modify Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, which establishes the authority of the Tribal

Police Department to enforce state law. "These changes were focused on allowing the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's law enforcement authority to continue whether or not a cooperative agreement existed in Mille Lacs County," the resolution states.

- The Band's ability to self-refer cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office under the Tribal Law and Order Act, which would "be a direct violation" of the law enforcement agreement.
- The Band's participation in an Intertribal Violent Offenders Task Force Joint Powers Agreement under its "inherent tribal authority," which the County said violates state law.
- The Band's alleged "exercise of law enforcement authority outside of its jurisdiction" and "failure to cooperate and coordinate with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, which has jurisdictional authority throughout all of Mille Lacs County," according to Public Law 280.

The Band has argued that none of these reasons has merit, as reported in the July *Inaajimowin*.

*Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers continue to respond to calls for service on tribal lands. Band members should continue to call 911 in case of emergency, but they can also call a new direct toll-free number to request Tribal Police service directly: 888-609-5006. The Department's main phone number — 320-532-3430 — can also be used. The non-emergency call center is open 24/7.*

## National News Briefs

**Navajo Sue EPA:** A year after 3 million gallons of heavy metal sludge from the shuttered Gold King Mine gushed into a tributary of the Animas River, the Navajo Nation is suing the Environmental Protection Agency for what it sees as negligence in cleaning up the disaster. The EPA has taken responsibility for the accidental release of toxic acid mine waste — including lead and arsenic — that turned the Animas River an unsightly shade of orange last August. But in the lawsuit filed Tuesday, the Navajo Nation alleges that the EPA has failed to properly remediate the disaster and compensate the thousands of farmers who rely on the San Juan River, which flows from the Animas through New Mexico and Utah, to irrigate their crops and sustain their cattle and sheep.

**Incubation Legislation:** This July, Democratic Party Senators introduced legislation to help launch businesses and create more jobs in Indian Country. The Native American Business Incubators Program Act will establish and fund business incubators in Indian Country to help start-up and cultivate Native American owned small businesses. This bill will provide Native Americans the tools to strengthen tribal economies and communities. It also provides the right tools and training for Native Americans to succeed.

**Enbridge Fined:** The U.S. Department of Justice announced a settlement of \$172 million to be paid by the Enbridge pipeline company in financial assessments. \$62 million of it will go towards civil penalties and \$110 million will go toward preventative oil spill measures. The settlement also requires the replacement of Line 3, which, alongside the Sandpiper pipeline in Minnesota, will be undergoing environmental review. The company has proposed much of the replacement to follow a path from North Dakota through northern Minnesota to Superior, Wisconsin. It will be the most expensive project in Enbridge's history. This could cause environmental and land disruptions in the proposed areas. (See page 11 for more on this story.)

**Great Leader Lost:** Miniconjou Lakota Chief David Beautiful Bald Eagle, Waniyetu Opi, was 97 when he passed away in the arms of his wife and surrounded by friends and family. He's led a life as a soldier in the 4th Cavalry at Fort Meade and in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, as an accomplished bronc rider under the name "Chips Warner," and as an actor starring in several motion pictures. David was also a champion Indian dancer, and has served as chairman of the Personal Policy Board, goodwill ambassador for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, chief of the Miniconjou band, and first chief of the Indigenous Native Nations. David led a long, fulfilling life remaining true to his native heritage and utilizing his leadership and peacemaking skills throughout his various positions. He is a role model and beloved leader for the Native American community.

**Legislator Makes History:** Peggy Flanagan, a Minnesota legislator from the White Earth Nation, was the first Native American woman to address the Democratic National Convention in July. She spoke about her concerns regarding Donald Trump's views towards American Indians. 147 American Indians present at the DNC were represented at the Native American Council, Caucus, and nearly every major speech.

# Circle of Healing Conference Focuses on Culture

Brett Larson Staff Writer



Lee Obizaan Staples presented to the entire conference in the morning.

In response to the news that Mille Lacs had been hit hard by opiate addiction, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin held roundtables in all districts during the past year to gather ideas for combatting the opiate crisis in Mille Lacs Band communities.

As a next step in the process, Melanie directed her staff to plan two conferences with the theme "Anishinaabe Strong: Circle of Healing and Strength."

In June, the first conference was held in Hinckley with an emphasis on understanding the science of drug addiction and its relationship with mental illness and other factors.

On Aug. 3, the second conference was held with an emphasis on how Anishinaabe culture can help Band members find strength, hope and healing.

Melanie welcomed a large crowd to the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events Center, saying, "There may be some bad things happening in our communities, but we can take care of that. We can fix it. That's why you are here, because we want to make our communities the best that they can be."

Lee Obizaan Staples gave the invocation, followed by comments from Nazhike Awaasanang (Bradley E. Harrington), who put the conference together. Bradley said he looked at what helped him stay clean and sober after he was released from prison four years ago, and he thought of people like Mille Lacs Elders Obizaan, Amik, and Joe Nayquonabe, and Mike Sullivan, an Ojibwe language expert from Lac Courte Oreilles in Wisconsin.

He decided to bring them to speak at the conference. "That's what I wanted to do, because that's what kept me going, for my kids and my community," he said.

The morning session was devoted to a presentation from Obizaan. The first part focused on a guide to spiritual growth. He spoke about the importance of offering tobacco each day, dealing with anger, showing respect, embracing Anishinaabe identity, seeking therapy if necessary, integrating spirituality into daily life, and nurturing the Anishinaabe spirit by using the language, attending ceremonies and helping others. He said all Anishinaabe should get their Anishinaabe name as a start.

Obizaan described Anishinaabe people as living in several "camps": the traditional camp, the Chimookomaan (white person) camp, the "lost spirits" camp and the "hang around the fort" Indian camp.



In the afternoon, three breakout sessions featured four speakers: Migizi (Mike Sullivan), Amik (Larry Smallwood), Waabishkibines (Joe Nayquonabe Sr.) and Brenda Child.

"If we embrace our Anishinaabe ways, we won't end up in those other camps," he said. "This is what we were given as a people. The spirits, the manidoog, gave us this. Don't reject it, because if you try to be something you're not, you'll never have peace within. You'll always feel like something is missing."

After a break, Obizaan talked about the ceremonies Anishinaabe people practice from birth to death and beyond, and the importance of participating in those ceremonies to embrace Anishinaabe identity, find healing and direction, and contradict negative messages prevalent in society.

The afternoon was dedicated to breakout sessions led by Migizi (Mike Sullivan), Amik (Larry Smallwood), Waabishkibines (Joe Nayquonabe Sr.) and Brenda Child.

Migizi told his personal story about getting in trouble as a youth and finding direction as he learned the Ojibwe language and traditions. "I never would have been able to stay on this path without our ways," he said.

He also shared his vision of a new generation of Anishinaabe who know they are here to give to their communities, not just take. He said he hears people say the Ojibwe language is dying, but it will not die during his lifetime because he will be using it with his children and grandchildren.

Joe Nayquonabe told his story of military service, falling into addiction and then finding healing through attending ceremonies. Eventually he became a drug and alcohol counselor, and he emphasized how the 12 Steps can be aligned with Anishinaabe spirituality to promote healing. He also told a story about how he found direction after spending his first five years of sobriety as "an unhappy sober guy."

"I talked to my Elders and told them I was a lot happier when I was drinking," he said. "They told me I had to get back to my spirituality. 'You come into our dancehall, put your tobacco, bring your gift, dance to your song, bring food, help out, and then you're done.' I started digging into why I was doing this, and finally things started coming together. Things started looking up for me."

Brenda Child spoke about writing and learning some difficult facts about her people, and how alcohol abuse and family violence have affected Indian communities, including her family at Red Lake.

Amik talked about the history and importance of the 11 Big Drums at Mille Lacs. He told stories of how the women's drum came to Mille Lacs, and how the Dakota shared their drums with Mille Lacs. He said no one needs an invitation to come to a Big Drum ceremony, and he encouraged everyone to come to as many as they can this fall.

He said the main point of the ceremony is to ask for help and pray for others. "When I do my prayers on the Big Drum I don't leave anybody out," he said. "I pray for the people in hospitals, nursing homes, the incarcerated, those who are overseas fighting, the veterans, those who are out 'Walmarting', drinking, playing pool, all my we'ehs. I pray for the people that are studying and working on the language. Nobody's left out. I pray for the spirits that watch over this lake, the spirits that take care of that island. Wherever there's a drum ceremony, somebody's praying for you."

# Anglers Exceed Walleye Quota; Season to Close September 6th

Minnesota anglers exceeded their 2016 Mille Lacs Lake walleye allocation in July, but Gov. Mark Dayton declared on August 9 that walleye fishing would remain open.

More than two weeks after the announcement that anglers had exceeded their quota, the state finally announced on Aug. 23 that the walleye season on Mille Lacs would end on Labor Day, Sept. 6.

The 2016 walleye season was declared catch-and-release only due to the small safe harvest levels established by population estimates. Still, since 5 to 10 percent of fish caught and released die according to Minnesota DNR studies, anglers exceeded the 28,600-pound quota by nearly 10,000 pounds before the end of August.

Mille Lacs Band DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel expressed disappointment with the governor's decision (see sidebar), as did representatives from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), which represents all eight Ojibwe bands with treaty rights in the 1837 Ceded Territory.

When the quota was reached in the summer of 2015, the state shut down walleye fishing, and the Mille Lacs Band DNR and Chief Executive, after consultation with Drumkeepers, decided to forego netting in the spring of 2016. A small spearfishing harvest occurred, but the Band did not reach its quota of 11,400 pounds.

Gov. Dayton responded to the 2015 shutdown by proposing an economic relief package for Mille Lacs businesses and creating a new advisory group, replacing the Mille Lacs Fishery Input Group that had been in place for years. He also proposed a new fisheries building for Mille Lacs and recommended staff changes at the DNR fisheries office in Aitkin.

The day before the state announced that anglers had exceeded the quota, Susan said the state had presented a plan that would give the state an open-ended quota while leaving

the Bands at their quota.

"I said no," said Susan. "The bands have given up quite a bit. We've given up our netting for this year, and the Wisconsin bands haven't been over for a couple years. The bands are all very firm about the state staying under their quota."

Minnesota anglers have exceeded their allocation several times since the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed Ojibwe hunting and fishing rights in 1999.

Although it is widely assumed that the bands can claim up to 50 percent of the harvest, the state has enjoyed larger allocations and harvests than the tribes every year.

Local businesses and anglers have lobbied for less restrictive regulations and the largest possible allocations, arguing that the walleye population is healthier than the DNR's scientific surveys indicate.

In 2013, the Minnesota DNR determined that the walleye population was at a historic low, based on fall gillnet surveys. Anglers were left with shrinking harvest slots and bag limits in 2014 and 2015.

The small slot limits have meant that anglers have caught-and-released thousands of fish in pursuit of the elusive slot fish, resulting in high levels of "hooking mortality," which is the scientific term for the death of released fish.

This year, for the first time, the Minnesota DNR declared a catch-and-release only season for state anglers. Most assumed that if the state hit its quota, targeting of walleye would be outlawed, although some walleyes would still be caught by anglers pursuing northerns, bass, muskies or other species.

The governor's decision to keep the season open not only hurts the state/tribal relationship but could potentially result in federal court intervention to stop state anglers from further damaging the walleye fishery.

## Executive Director Responds to State

In response to the governor's decision, Susan Klapel, Executive Director of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, released the following statement:

"The Mille Lacs Band and the other tribes with treaty rights on Mille Lacs Lake worked in good faith with the State of Minnesota to determine a safe harvest limit for walleye this year. The process was driven by science and guided by the understanding that we must, above all, protect the future vibrancy of the fishery. We listened to our fisheries' biologists and experts, as well as the state's. We consulted with the other tribes, and with our Elders. The result was an agreement by all parties to set a restrictive limit on walleye this year — a limit the lake needs in order to give her time to recover.

"The walleye limit was allocated between the tribes and the state — with the state getting the majority share. Harvest opportunities for Band members were dramatically restricted to stay below our share and protect the lake. The state adopted a catch-and-release only policy but refused to prohibit live bait or take other measures to further reduce walleye mortalities in its fishery.

"The state announced today that it has exceeded its share of the walleye limit by almost 10,000 pounds, and that it intends to continue its fishery without change. It defended this decision on the grounds that its fishery has had only a small impact on the 2013 year class, but did not address its impact on other year classes or the female spawning biomass as a whole. We have not seen the data the state used to assess impacts on the 2013 year class, but our biologists believe the state's decision to exceed its share of the agreed safe harvestable limit will prolong and could negatively impact

the ability to rebuild the Mille Lacs walleye population in the future.

"As they have done every year, the tribes honored their commitment to stay within their share of the safe harvest limit to protect the lake for generations to come. We are deeply disappointed to learn the state will not honor its commitment to do the same."

**"As they have done every year, the tribes honored their commitment to stay within their share of the safe harvest limit to protect the lake for generations to come. We are deeply disappointed to learn the state will not honor its commitment to do the same."**

— Susan Klapel

## State & Local News Briefs

**Good Life in Minneapolis:** The Red Lake Band has purchased a small property in Minneapolis for \$1.73 million to develop an affordable housing project. The tribe plans to demolish the Amble Hardware building and turn it into a mixed-use complex with about 115 units of affordable housing. It will also open up an embassy in Minneapolis and a health care clinic to serve some of the 2,100 Red Lake Band members who live in the Twin Cities area. The project will be called Mino-bimaadiziwin, Ojibwe for "living the good life."

**Homicide Research:** Researchers at the Hennepin County medical examiner's office are getting a rare look this summer at handwritten death records from the early 1900s as they track ancient homicides for the first time. This year is the second for a project that has students looking through data from the past 100 years to add previous suspicious deaths and homicides to the electronic records. This is the first project that will help analyze and track homicide trends in Minnesota. This research will help policymakers better understand how and why homicides happen, and what things might be done to prevent them. Students are specifically looking into American Indian deaths from 1850 to 1930 to try to find trends in the reason for homicide.

**Resort Relief:** The Mille Lacs County Board approved a resolution to allow businesses around Mille Lacs Lake to apply for part of a \$3.6 million economic-relief package coming as part of an appropriations act approved in the 2016 legislative session. The relief package is intended for businesses surrounding the lake that have suffered from the lack of walleye fishing. The dollars will be available in the 2017 fiscal year, and are a one-time appropriation.

**Rice Protections:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has revised the rules to better protect wild rice from sulfate pollution. The refinement plan will identify a protective sulfate concentration, and a new definition of wild rice water. The MPCA consulted with tribal representatives and state legislators on the issues, and is open to public comment until September 6. This new plan is a step forward in helping protect wild rice plants which are a crucial part of Native American livelihood.

**Rez Road Author Passes:** Ojibwe writer, poet, and performer Jim Northrup has passed away at age 73. Before his passing, he talked with MPR about his life, his cancer, and being a member of the Ojibwe tribe. Prior to documenting modern Native American life, Northrup served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. He said he has lived a full life and is confident of his next journey.

**Anglers Unhappy:** After tribal leaders expressed significant concerns about the State of Minnesota's decision to exceed its safe harvest allocation of walleye on Mille Lacs Lake, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced that the lake would close to anglers September 6th. To date, anglers exceeded their quota by nearly 20,000 pounds. Despite the huge overage, resort owners and members of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee complained bitterly when they were informed of the decision. They said it would negatively impact their businesses. Tribal biologists continue to study data gathered on the walleye population to assess what possible damage to the future population may have been caused by the excess harvest by State anglers.

# Band Princess Looks Back on Her Year, Offers Advice

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

For Sierra Edwards one of the best parts of being the Mille Lacs Band Princess has been becoming more connected to the community.

Sierra, who is a Band member, didn't grow up on the reservation and lives in Brainerd. Her trips to District I and other districts would be to attend funerals, powwows, youth gatherings and political events with her dad, Jamie Edwards, who is the Band's Government Affairs Director.

But since being named the Band's Princess last August during the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow, Sierra has been able to build stronger relationships with other Band members and the Band community.

"The year has gone by really fast," said Sierra, a 17-year-old senior at Brainerd Senior High School. "I made new friends, met a lot of people and developed stronger bonds."

She has represented the Band by dancing at 16 different powwows over the past year — including the Denver March Powwow and the Gathering of Nations Powwow in April.

Band member Tony Pike and Ramona Bird invited Sierra to travel with them to Albuquerque for Gathering of Nations and there she was able to dance with thousands of others during the event.

"I was surprised Tony asked, but it made me really excited because I always wanted to attend the Gathering of Nations," said Sierra, whose Indian name is "Ikwe."

For the past year, Sierra has had to keep a detailed calendar of events coming up and then rely on her dad and her mom, Red Lake Band member Susan Beaulieu, to help her make them happen.

"My advice for the incoming Band royalty is to find a way to get things on their calendars and then find a way to make it a priority," she said.

Sierra said her journey to royalty began when someone suggested she run when she attended the National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference when it was held in

St. Paul. She hadn't thought about it before then, but decided to pursue it.

"The first thing I did was talk to Herb and Patty Sam, and then they helped me along the way.

"My aunt Anne Beaulieu taught me how to rope bead a peyote stick because you have to learn four things about the culture to run. Herb taught me Ojibwe so I could give my introduction speech.

"Patty taught me how to prepare meals for ceremonies, and then I made a dish for ceremony — it was venison, blueberries, wild rice, corn and rolls."

She prepared the food for the ceremony to bless her regalia and for it to be smudged. She gave the rest away because it had to be eaten by sundown, according to Herb and Patty.

Sierra, who has danced contemporary jingle dress and fancy shawl, said she prefers the old-style jingle dress dancing.

"I really like the old traditional jingle dress dance," she said. "My family said I looked so comfortable and I was in my element when I dance that style... it fits me.

"I can't imagine any other style long-term, and I think I will probably dance traditional jingle dress the rest of my life."

When she was crowned last year, Sierra was both honored and surprised.

"I felt like an outsider, and I hadn't been to the Mille Lacs Powwow in a while, but winning made me feel more connected," she said. "I felt confident in my relationship and connection to the Band."

Other advice that Sierra would like to offer future royalty members is to be prepared. When it's time to go into the arena to dance or to represent the Band — be on time and be ready.

"People are really looking to you, so it's important that you represent the Band in a good way."

She also encourages those who want to run for royalty to pursue the opportunity — even if they don't live on the reservation.

"It can be more challenging if you don't live on the reservation, but it helps connect you and people are willing to help you."

At the 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Sierra danced her last dance as the reigning princess but will continue to proudly represent the Band anywhere she goes.

"I love to dance, and I love to represent. This is what makes me happy, and I enjoy it."

## Outgoing Princess Ends Reign with Gratitude

**Bradley E. Harrington** Guest Columnist

Sierra Edwards, MLB Sr. Princess from August 2015 – August 2016, is a role model. Those of us fortunate enough to have witnessed her royal demonstrations throughout her reign were left with a feeling of awe. Of course we heard all about her activities from here to Gathering. But I want to talk about what happened on August 21st, 2016. After crowning the new Sr. Princess, Shianna Smallwood, Sierra was on the verge of tears — tears of success, joy and reflection.

But it is what happened after the crowning which shows Princess Edwards' true character. She held a special for Teen Girls Old Style Jingle, a style she holds in high regard. "I've been dancing it for a while now. It just feels natural to me!" she beamed. "I dance it, love it and think it represents the band well!" Over 25 girls took part in the special, three of whom were picked to receive a gift from Sierra herself.

As if this weren't enough — a special put on by a conceding royalty — Sierra personally went around to those who helped her throughout the year, and it was a large number she felt compelled to express her gratitude to. "I just wanted to do something special for the people who have helped me soooooo much this past year." She humbly stated, "I could never repay them, but I thought acknowledging their help would be a start! I'm not really sure — it was just kind of something I planned on doing right from the start!"

So to say that Sierra's reign is over would be fallacious. Character like that does not sit idle. Her servant leadership sounds off when asked about giving a gift to Ramona Bird: "Ramona has been amazing, and I'm hoping she heals up fast!"

I believe that this is just the beginning of a long series of successes and royal demonstrations put on by this young woman. It is young leaders like Sierra we are proud to have in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, who spread honor amongst others and give us all something to be proud about. Mii iw minik mazinaabikiwebinigeaan.



Sierra danced at many local powwows, including the Honor Our Elders Powwow and the Grand Celebration Powwow in June and the Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow in District II in July. She was a mentor to young dancers like Arianna Sam.



# Education Commissioner Ed Minnema Sets High Goals for Staff and Students

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

The list of things that Ed Minnema wants to accomplish during his tenure as the Band's Commissioner of Education is impressive. But the long list is not surprising coming from a guy who has been an educator for most of his career.

Over the years Ed has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal and college professor. He's had some other jobs outside of education, but they never quite fit him like the education jobs did.

Ed was sworn in as the Commissioner in July but got his first job with the Band in 1996 as a music teacher. He worked with Band Elder Larry Matrious and they taught Ojibwe language through music at Nay Ah Shing. Prior to that Ed, worked as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools system for four years.

"Teaching was a calling and I thought I could make an impact through music," he said.

When the opportunity arose for him to leave Chicago and come to work for the Band he decided it was the right move to make.

Little did he know that the move would be life changing and that he would spend a big part of his life immersed in the Band and its culture. He met his wife Cheryl Benjamin Minnema and the couple had two sons, Sean and Ethan. They have since divorced, but remain good friends.

He learned about the culture and traditions of the Anishinaabe and learned Ojibwe through his relationship with Cheryl's family, including her mom, Mille "Zhaawan" Benjamin and from Larry, his first teacher. He also learned from other Elders like Norman Clark and Ole Nickaboine.

"There were many teachers who cared enough to teach me all they could," Ed said, adding that he's a "low-to-moderate level" speaker.

One of the things Ed would like to see more of is the participation of Elders at the Band schools. When he worked there as a teacher there were many more Elders involved than there are today. The students, he said, could benefit greatly from the wisdom of the Elders.

"We want the Elders to feel welcome... that Nay Ah Shing is a place for them where they are respected and valued."

Some of the other things Ed hopes to accomplish are increasing teacher support, by increasing staffing and student support through language, culture and relevant curriculum. His third goal is community ownership – he wants the community

to be vested stakeholders in all that happens at Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove Leadership Academy.

"The staff has been stretched and so far we've hired 20 people for the schools, but we need to hire more for areas like special education and mental health."

He has instituted professional learning communities, which are designed to allow staff time to meet and collaborate on data and curriculum. Those communities meet every other Friday. Ed has said that language and culture continue to be a priority and that includes cultural activities.

"We're using the Rutledge Immersion Grounds and will hire five Ojibwe language trainees to work with Larry 'Amik' Smallwood," he said. "They will be integrated into the schools as language teachers and will take courses to get their certification in education through Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College."

Ed wants to foster a climate of respect and appreciation for the teachers. And he would like to see more support for the students through language and cultural activities.

"To create meaning and relevance of the curriculum they first have to understand who they are as Anishinaabe people."

The schools will also focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, which is also known as STEAM. The curriculum is being updated because it's old and it's not culturally sensitive, he said.

There needs to be more community engagement at the schools because the schools were created by the community and for the community. Those things can happen through volunteering, a vision and a strategic plan, Ed said.

"We are holding community forums throughout the year to engage the community and hear their vision for the schools," said Ed, adding that one forum has been held so far (see p13).

Other plans include having Band Elder Joe Nayquonabe, Sr. work with teachers on language and culture on a weekly basis. There will also be an upgrade to the facilities, which includes new tiles, paint, sidewalks and repairs to Nay Ah Shing.

Another change is that Pine Grove Leadership Academy has a new director, Karrie McCurdy, who moved to the role from the District III Head Start Director's spot.

Ed says he plans to do an assessment to see what the schools needs to help students and staff to be more successful. LeAnn Benjamin has been hired to serve as the Ojibwe Lan-

guage Coordinator for both schools.

"I have very high expectations of myself so I have high expectations for the administrators, teachers and the staff. I know those expectations will flow to the students," Ed said.

He believes in servant leadership and that students should be at the top – schools and staff should be student-centered.

"My goal is to have the best tribal school in the nation," he said. "In Indian education the expectations are not high enough and I want that to change."

"Student-centered curriculum matters and it needs to be relevant," he added. "They need teachers to act as guides. There needs to be an integrated approach to curriculum and hands-on activities to accompany the curriculum. Many students benefit greatly from hands-on learning."

Ed said he expects students to blossom and expects that they will meet state standards. Through their work, students will develop ideas about how science and culture intersect, will be exposed to real-life situations like the ecosystem. The focus on STEAM, along with culture and language, will bridge their understanding of what they are learning, he added.

This year the schools will pilot a program using Chrome Books and iPods as they focus on technology.

"We will teach computer coding and our STEAM lab uses robotics," as part of the increased use of technology, he said.

Ed says the staff at the schools are committed and highly qualified and that they will have a greater emphasis on building strong relationships with the students and their families.

He is looking forward to working to grow and strengthen Pine Grove and says the community commitment for that school is strong.

"When they leave our schools, I want students to be culturally fluent and academically-prepared for tech school, tribal college or a four-year university," Ed said.

Ed grew up in Wisconsin and Illinois – graduating from a high school in the suburbs about an hour outside of Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign with a Bachelor of Music degree in music performance in 1992. He later got his Master of Arts in Education from St. Mary's in 2001 and Doctorate of Education in education policy and administration from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities in 2007.

During his expansive career he worked as an assistant principal in Duluth, a principal at St. Croix Camp School and has worked for the Band's Corporate Commission as the Executive Director in education and performance. He was an assistant professor in the Master of Tribal Administration and Governance at the University of Minnesota Duluth for four years before returning to the Band.



Ed Minnema was sworn in July 25 as Commissioner of Education. Tribal Court Judge Brenda Moose conducted the ceremony, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin introduced Ed to a full house gathered in the Band Assembly chambers. Ed said he felt honored and humbled by the appointment. He thanked his teachers, including Zhaawan, Jim and Norman Clark, Larry Matrious and Ole Nickaboine. "They are still with us, and I wear this medallion in their honor," said Ed. "I also want to thank the Chief and Band Assembly for putting their confidence in me and the Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove staff. We are determined to make Nay Ah Shing the best tribal school in the nation."

# 50th Annual Traditional Powwow

**Chad Germann and Toya Stewart Downey** Photographers

Hundreds attended the Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I August 19-21. Miigwech to all who dedicated their time and effort to make the powwow a success. For more powwow photos, see pages 14-16.





# Commissioner Provides Community Development Update

The summer of 2016 has been a busy one for the Community Development Department, as staff and contractors have juggled many projects in various stages of completion.

Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin provided a summary of those projects. “Miigwech to everyone on our Community Development staff,” said Percy. “Everyone’s working hard as we try to meet the needs of our Band members and plan for the future.”

In District I, infrastructure work at the Sher Property is nearing completion, and construction at some of the 57 home sites will be in full swing next year. Planning is also underway for a new community center and Health and Human Services building on the site, which will include a medical clinic. The HHS

building will house all staff who now work in three different buildings around the district. The existing Ne-la-Shing Clinic and District I Community Center will be repurposed once the new buildings are complete.

In District II, the new powwow grounds and facilities were built in time for this summer’s Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow. Percy was appreciative of the District II Powwow Committee for taking a lead role in design of the facilities. A few additions and changes will be made to complete the project before next summer’s powwow. Planning is also underway for a new District II Clinic.

In District III, work on a new Community Recreation Center will begin in early September. The new center, which will be

built south of Grand Casino Hinckley, will include a gymnasium, an elevated walking track, classrooms, a meeting room, a full kitchen, a spacious lobby and an outdoor splash pad.

Construction is also continuing in the Zhingwaak development east of the casino. Phase 3 infrastructure is nearing completion, and most of the homes in Phase 2 are finished. Phase 3 will include 37 to 39 home sites.

A new building at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Immersion Grounds in Rutledge is also nearly finished. The building will include offices, meeting space, dormitories and restrooms.

New homes and remodeling projects are continuing in all three districts. See the project list that accompanies this story for details.

## Community Development Master Project List

### District I Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
<b>Commercial — New</b>	
#11007: New DI Clinic Design	15%
#11009: Traditional Grounds Building: Well House	0%
#11014: New Roads Garage Design	95%
#11015: New Higher Education Facility	0%
#11016: DI Roads Garage Construction	50%
#12069: New DI Community Center Planning	15%
<b>Commercial — Remodel</b>	
#12065: Budget Host Remodel	96%
#12073: DI Comm. Ctr. Exterior Door	0%
#12075: DI Powwow Electrical Upgrades	0%
<b>Residential — New</b>	
#13055: 47165 Partridge Pass Demo & Replace	0%
#13057: Lot 117 PML, Earle Brown Dr. Poplar Rental	0%
#13058: Lot 324 PML, Poplar w/o Garage Rental	0%
<b>Residential — Remodel</b>	
#14089: 10944 State Hwy. 27	98%
#14096: 43422 Mosey Drive	50%
#14099: 6381 Sail Away, Garrison	0%
#14100: 17231 Gabeshi Ct., Onamia	0%
#14109: 45447 US Hwy 169 Septic Replace	0%
#14111: 15979 Nay Ah Shing Drive	0%
#14112: 16052 Hwy 27	98%
#14113: 45881 US Hwy 169	20%
<b>Infrastructure/PublicWorks</b>	
#15000: Sher Property Engineering	90%
#15001: Sher Property Development Construction	75%
#15003: Vineland Safe Roads to School Sidewalks	5%

### District II Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
<b>Commercial — New</b>	
#21000: DII Powwow Arena Design	95%
#21002: DII Powwow Arena Construction	95%
#21003: New DII Satellite Clinic Design	50%
<b>Commercial — Remodel</b>	
#22012: East Lake Ceremonial Building Water Softener	95%
#22016: Galloway Old College Demolition	0%
<b>Residential — New</b>	
#23047: 1930 Moose Dr. Butternut Elder	98%
#23048: 1920 Moose Dr. Walnut Rental	98%
#23056: 2240 Moose Dr. Butternut Elder	98%
#23046: 2500 Wahbegan Dr. Poplar	0%
#23055: 2220 Moose Dr. Alder	0%
#23058: 1904 Moose Dr. Poplar Rental	20%
#23059: 1900 Moose Drive Butternut Rental	8%
#23060: 2640 Chiminising Dr. Blue Spruce Elder	0%
#23053: 37959 207th Place Butternut Rental	0%
#23054: 35956 State Hwy 65	0%
<b>Residential — Remodel</b>	
#24022: 21842 Goshawk	0%
#24030: 20453 465th Lane	98%
#24023: 90 N. Main St. McGregor	0%
#24041: 34889 200th Ave. Elder Garage	15%
#24044: 2545 Naawaakwa St.	10%

### District III Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
<b>Commercial — New</b>	
#31001: Rutledge Grounds Facility	70%
#31002: New Hinckley Community Center Planning	90%
#31003: New Hinckley Community Center Construction	0%
<b>Commercial — Remodel</b>	
#32018: Community Center Flagpoles	50%
<b>Residential — New</b>	
#33044: Zhingwaak Playground and Park	92%
#33067: 2490 Oshki Odena Street (Alder Rental)	95%
#33070: 2428 Oshki Odena Street (Alder Rental)	95%
#33068: 1290 Oshki Odena Placa (Tamarack walkout)	95%
#33069: 1285 Oshki Odena Place (Blue Spruce Elder)	90%
#33074: 2399 Zhingob Ave. Blue Spruce Rental	15%
#33075: 2461 Zhingob Ave. Alder	5%
#33076: 2614 Oshki Odena St. Alder	10%
#33077: 2540 Oshki Odena St. Blue Spruce	20%
#33078: 58285 Ginew Trail HUD Rental Poplar	0%
#33079: 58112 Ginew Trail HUD Rental Poplar	0%
#33080: 58491 Makwa Ct. Blue Spruce Elder	0%
#33081: 58480 Makwa Ct. Blue Spruce Elder	0%
#33082: 2499 Zhingob Ave. Poplar Rental	0%
#33083: 2542 Zhingob Ave. Butternut Rental	0%
#33084: 2619 Zhingob Place Blue Spruce Rental	0%
#33085: 1342 Zhingob Place Blue Spruce Rental	0%
<b>Residential — Remodel</b>	
#34078: 30952 Eagle Feather Dr. (fire rehab)	0%
#34087: 46118 Grace Lake Rd.	0%
#34089: 62264 Grouse Trail	0%
<b>Infrastructure/PublicWorks</b>	
#35000: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Engineering	95%
#35001: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Construction	98%
#35002: Evergreen Drive Extension Engineering	95%
#35003: Evergreen Ct. Extension Construction	85%

### Off Reservation Projects

Project	% Complete
<b>Residential — Remodel</b>	
#44041: 11900 Wedgewood Dr. Coon Rapids	0%
#44045: 19439 120th Ave. Milaca	0%
#44047: 222 S. 57th Ave. W. Duluth	0%
<b>All Districts/Misc. Projects</b>	
#50001: All Districts Bathroom Renovations	80%
#50003: HI Driveway Paving	85%



The building at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin immersion grounds in Rutledge is nearly complete.

A groundbreaking for the new Hinckley Community Center south of the casino was scheduled for August 30 at 2 p.m., after this issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin went to press. See next month’s issue for coverage.

# Sandpiper in Question After Enbridge Invests in Alternative Pipeline

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

The future of the proposed Sandpiper pipeline is in question after Enbridge Inc. invested in an alternative pipeline to transport Bakken oil to the Gulf of Mexico. Enbridge partner Marathon Petroleum is also investing in the Bakken Pipeline System and has said it will pull out of the Sandpiper project.

Enbridge was seeking permission from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to build the Sandpiper pipeline in a new corridor that would pass through watersheds in District II, near the Minisinaakwaang, Sandy Lake and Minnewawa communities. Those watersheds contain wild rice beds that have

supported those communities for generations.

The pipeline was designed to bring oil to a Marathon facility in Superior, Wisconsin, where it would be processed and shipped to the Gulf.

The new Enbridge investment in the Dakota Access pipeline would bring the oil from North Dakota's Bakken formation through South Dakota to Illinois and the Gulf, bypassing Minnesota. Indian communities in the Dakotas are also protesting the new pipeline system.

Mille Lacs DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel said Band members' opposition to the pipeline had an impact. "I think a lot of the pressure that came from the bands was a hindrance to them that made them not want to do it," said Susan. She cited the tribal public hearing held in June of 2015, which was called by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin after the PUC failed to hold any hearings on tribal lands.

Many District II Band members, employees and allies spoke at that hearing and at others throughout the corridor.

Susan also gave credit to Honor the Earth and Friends of the Headwaters, who won a court battle saying the PUC had erred by granting the project a Certificate of Need before an

Environmental Impact Statement was prepared. A Minnesota judge ruled that the PUC's action violated the Minnesota Environmental Protection Act.

That decision pushed the start date of the project back indefinitely, which may have led to Enbridge finding an alternative.

New public hearings were required, and Band members and employees once again testified on May 11 of this year in opposition to the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines.

It remains to be seen how the new decision will affect Enbridge's plan for Line 3, an existing pipeline that Enbridge wanted to re-route through the new Sandpiper corridor.

After a massive oil spill from an Enbridge pipeline near Kalamazoo, MI, a judge ruled that Enbridge needed to fix or repair its pipeline system, which includes Line 3.

Line 3 currently follows Highway 2 through northern Minnesota, but rather than remove and fix the old line, Enbridge applied for a permit to put a new line alongside Sandpiper and abandon the old one.

Susan said the Band will fight a re-route of Line 3 through the proposed Sandpiper corridor.

## District I Youth Attend GLIFWC Camp

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Camp Onji-Akiing, "From the Earth," is a joint effort of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the U.S. Forest Service to give Native youth knowledge of natural resources and development of leadership skills.

District I cousins Kelia Armstrong and Cyrell Boyd attended the camp together in July, and they enjoyed it so much they hope to return next year.

The camp, which is in its eighth year, was held at Camp Nesbit near Sidnaw, MI, in the Upper Peninsula. The 50 kids were divided up into four "clans," each with a color from the medicine wheel: yellow (mustard), red (ketchup), white (salt) and black (pepper).

Kelia was in the Great Eagles and Cyrell in the Crazy Crows. Each clan had its own cabin, which campers had to keep clean and orderly. Kelia was in the Bobcat cabin and Cyrell in the Loon.

They also helped with meal preparation and cleanup. "We had to do a prayer before we ate," said Kelia. "On the last night I got to do the prayer."

Each day began with a quarter-mile "Spirit Run," after which campers would put out tobacco. Next came breakfast,

followed by a variety of activities, from science education to crafts like hand-drum making to career exploration. (Kelias is thinking about becoming a lawyer, and Cyrell wants to be a wildland fire fighter.)

After lunch were more activities: a high ropes course, a low ropes course, warrior games and circle time, where kids were taught about respect and kindness. "There were no fights," said Cyrell. "Everyone in my cabin was my friend."

"I met some cool friends and counselors," said Kelia.

The camp's location on Nesbit Lake allows for water sports, boating, swimming and fishing. Cyrell loved the fishing, and both kids learned what to do if their canoe tips. Campers are given a swimming test to determine if they can swim without a life preserver.

After supper there was a campfire with singing and drumming, and then journaling before bed. Cyrell said, "We had to say how fun our day was, how fun the Spirit Run was, how good the warrior games were, the high ropes, fishing. And how fun it was to make a drum stick."

The highlight for Kelia was playing the warrior games, where kids had to steal each other's bandannas, and the other

teams' flags. For Cyrell it was the zipline and walking the high ropes, which were strung between tall trees. (Don't worry — There were two safety cables attached to each camper.)

Joseph Benjamin, son of Band member John Benjamin, has attended the camp three years in a row. Experienced campers have the opportunity to become junior counselors at Camp Onji-Akiing.

Kelia's mom, Rachel Shaugobay, was impressed with how well the camp was run and how safe it was. "It looked like a little village," she said. "Kids, adults, and counselors were all walking around together. It was like a little beehive."

Parents were invited to eat with the campers and staff when they dropped kids off and picked them up, or to drop by any time and check on their kids.



**Kelia Armstrong and Cyrell Boyd attended Onji-Akiing (From the Earth) camp July 18-22 in MI.**

## Ogechie Project Pays Off in Manoomin

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

A project over a decade in the making has helped to right a 60-year wrong by bringing manoomin — wild rice — back to Lake Ogechie.

Wildlife Biologist Kelly Applegate said the rice crop is looking good but may need some time to fully recover. "We are thinking the rice needs another year of good seed drop to really create a lush bed of rice," said Kelly.

In 1954, against the wishes of Mille Lacs Band leaders, a dam was built in what is now Kathio State Park, raising the level of Ogechie by three feet and all but destroying the rice beds. The Buck Moore Dam, named for Hugh "Buck" Moore, whose family homesteaded in the area, was built to allay fears of anglers and resorters that Mille Lacs Lake was losing too much water.

In fact, the dam did little to maintain the lake level, but it did deplete the rice, which had already been knocked back by an earthen dam at the site and a series of dams that were built to float logs down the Rum River to mills in Milaca and beyond.

In the early 2000s the Band and State started looking into

the removal of the dam, but it took more than a decade for the plan to come to fruition.

One model for the project was Lake Onamia, where a similar dam was removed in the late 1990s to lower the lake level. The rice came in thick and healthy, providing food for area residents as well as waterfowl.

A 2004 article in the Brainerd Dispatch said the rice beds in Lake Ogechie had dwindled to less than an acre. That year the Bureau of Indian Affairs approved \$40,000 for a feasibility study to determine how removal of the dam would impact rice fish, waterfowl and the level of Mille Lacs.

In 2010 the Band and the Minnesota DNR signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together on the project.

Planning continued, and finally, in 2015, with funding secured by the Band, a new control structure was built at the Mille Lacs outlet and the dam was removed from the outlet of Ogechie.

This summer, the seeds that lay dormant in the lake bed

sprouted, and the rice came back. It has yet to be seen how much rice will mature, but Kelly Applegate is expecting a limited harvest this year.

"Culturally, we as Anishinaabe realize that harvesting — even when the resource is in a low or challenged state — is an important way to show appreciation to the Creator for the resource," Kelly said. "It's believed that if we don't use the resource, it will be taken away. So in that context, we are thinking of a small ceremonial type harvest this summer."

In the meantime, Band members started harvesting rice in August at other traditional sites around the region. According to Kelly, Mallard Lake was looking good, and the backwaters of Big Sandy had an abundant crop. Lake Onamia was patchy, but rice could be found. Unfortunately, the rice on Dean Lake was experiencing stem rot.

Thanks to the hard work of Band members and employees, Lake Ogechie will provide ricers with yet another opportunity to learn and practice their traditions by harvesting manoomin close to home.

# Mikwendaagoziwag — Sandy Lake Tragedy Remembered

Photos courtesy of Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Each summer, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) hosts the Mikwendaagoziwag memorial ceremony on the shores and waters of Sandy Lake to remember the 400 men, women and children who passed away in the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850.

A monument at Sandy Lake describes the event as follows: "The tragedy unfolded when U.S. government officials attempted to illegally relocate a number of Ojibwe Bands from their homes in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to northern Minnesota. In late autumn of 1850, thousands of Ojibwes had assembled at Sandy Lake for their annual treaty annuity payments. As the Ojibwe waited nearly six weeks for the payments, they suffered from illness, hunger and exposure. Many died from dysentery and measles. The promised annuities were never fully paid, and after the last of the meager provisions were distributed on December 2, the Ojibwe began an arduous journey home. Harsh winter conditions had already set in, and many more died along the way."

The memorial event begins with a pipe ceremony and canoe crossing of Sandy Lake beginning at Savanna State Park Boat Landing, followed by prayers, songs, speeches and a feast at the Mikwendaagoziwag monument at the Army Corps of Engineers recreation area.



Members of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota Ojibwe bands met at Sandy Lake on July 27 to remember the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850.

## Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

Bradley E. Harrington Nazhike Awaasanang

### Manoominikewi-ikidowinan (Ricing words)

Aaniin anishinaabedog, Ricing Season is upon us! When it comes to Ojibwe Language, a really efficient way to learn it is to use it. When we come across times when phrases become repetitive, we can use them as opportunities to try various ways of saying things. As with Ojibwe, the prefixes and suffixes make the word work in certain ways which can then be changed to mean different things. The differences become apparent when you attach other people to the word. Usually Ni=Me and Gi=You.

Ojibwe	English
Jiimaan	Canoe
Giinitam boozin jiimaaning	You get in the canoe first.
Boozidaa jiimaaning	Let's get in the canoe.
Bawa'iganaakoog	Knockers
Gidoozhiitaa ina ji-bawa'aman	Are you ready to knock?
Gaandakii'ige	S/he poles a canoe/boat.
Ninga-gaandakii'ige noongom	I will pole the canoe today.
Akeyaa	In the certain direction.
O'ow keyaa	This way.
I'iw keyaa	That way.
Izhi-gwayak izhaadaa	Let's go straight forward.
Anwebidaa	Let's rest.
Niibowaa manoomin sa go!!	That's a lot of Manoomin!!
Aaniish minik manoomin gaa-pawa'aman**	

\*Word list: Giinitam- Gii(you)nitam(turn), Boozin- Booz(S/he gets in)n(you), Gidoozhiitaa- Gid(you) Ozhiitaa(S/he is ready), Ina- yes or no question marker, Aaniish minik- how much \*\*When using a form of Gii, Gaa, Wii, Waa the first consonant will change to its non-audible counterpart. (B->P, D->T, J->CH, G->K, Z->S, Zh->Sh)



Joe Nayquonabe led the grand entry at the District I Powwow carrying the Art Gahbow staff.

# New Commissioner Seeks Input on Nay Ah Shing, Pine Grove

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

A small but enthusiastic group of community members met with Education Commissioner Ed Minnema Aug. 9 for dinner and a discussion of community members' vision for the schools.

"These are community schools," Ed said, "and we're here to listen to the community." He said input from community members would be used to inform the Band's overall education plan.

The meeting took place at both Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag in District I and Pine Grove in District III. Joyce Shingobe, Executive Director of the Education Department, was on hand at Pine Grove, and the two sites communicated through Interactive TV.

After dinner, the meeting began with introductions of those in attendance — primarily school employees and parents.

Next, updates on the schools were given by Ed, Joyce and Upper School Principal Noah Johnson.

Ed told the group that the Band Assembly had made a major decision to invest a quarter million dollars in Nay Ah Shing. "The overall facelift was a priority, and the Band Assembly really stepped up," Ed said.

He also said the schools had been understaffed, which had caused disruptions, but that the schools are almost fully staffed for this fall.

Ed also told the group about a new "student-driven" curriculum that would allow for more hands-on, inquiry-based, collaborative learning, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM), along with Ojibwe language and culture.

A new "Choices" curriculum will teach students about sexuality, drugs and alcohol, and early pregnancy.

Ed said students would recognize the changes immediately.

"Come fall the kids are going to realize, 'Hey, there's something different going on here.'"

Noah talked about the new art room and life skills classroom in the middle school wing. The art room will include a kiln, and the life skills room will have a stove, washer/dryer and refrigerator. He said on-the-job training opportunities were a success last year and will continue this year.

Joyce gave an update on improvements to the language and culture curriculum. She also talked about the new teacher training program available to Band members through Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College (see story below). Joyce also gave credit to Principal Jane Harstad, who recently resigned, for many positive changes at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag and Pine Grove.

Gregg Rutter, who is the Gifted and Talented coordinator at Nay Ah Shing, and Jeanene Gross, who teaches art, gave a presentation on their trip to Purdue this summer with 10 students from Nay Ah Shing and other schools.

Gregg and Jeanene said the Purdue camp is a model of student-centered learning that they hope to imitate at Nay Ah Shing. The program focuses on problem-solving, critical thinking and inquiry-based learning. Students are empowered to seek answers to their own questions, with teachers serving as a "guide on the side."

Ed said there was a "spark" in their presentation that can be applied to the Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove communities. "That same type of spark is also what we're striving for in our language and culture program," he said.

The meeting concluded with small-group brainstorming, followed by reports back to the large group. Participants

were asked to come up with things Nay Ah Shing should stop, start and continue to improve service to students and the community. Another community forum on education will be scheduled in late fall. See the Mille Lacs Band Facebook page, millelacsband.com, and future issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for more information.



**Nay Ah Shing teachers Gregg Rutter and Jeanene Gross brought 10 students to Purdue this summer for an educational camp focusing on STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Back row: Sage Boyd, Jeanene Gross, Ronni Jourdain, Dajatay Barnes, Mia Sam, Morgan Boyd. Front row: Louis Whitman, Molly Saboo, Bella Nayquonabe, Chase Sam, Danielle Hughes.**

## Fond du Lac Revitalizes Teacher Training Program

**Tom Urbanski** Guest Writer

The redevelopment of the American and Indigenous Elementary Education Program at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) will become a reality next fall. The program will take an innovative approach to teacher training and is designed to prepare students to be future elementary school teachers.

"Our American and Indigenous Elementary Education Program will prepare all students, but specifically Native American students, within a teacher preparation system emphasizing cultural approaches to educating future teachers," says Sara Montgomery, FDLTCC's program coordinator. "Faculty and staff will teach students through a cultural responsive education approach with an emphasis on an Indigenous science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum."

To better meet the educational needs of Minnesota's American Indian students, the state's legislature originally granted the college permission in 1995 to offer a bachelor's degree

in elementary education. The college is the only two-year higher education institution in Minnesota that is able to offer such a four-year degree program.

"Through a unique 2+2 agreement with Winona State University, students will complete the upper division course requirements and practical teaching portions of the bachelor's degree program," Montgomery explains. "We plan to follow this collaborative model for two years, and then ultimately transition the entire four-year program to reside at FDLTCC."

Coursework within the American and Indigenous Elementary Education Program focuses on leadership, community innovation, and building connections to tribal nations. A key component includes preparing students for the Minnesota Board of Teaching exams and licensure, as well as promoting an understanding of students' individual cultural values and the cultural values of others.

FDLTCC's program will deliver culturally relevant pedagogy to aspiring teachers in an effort to enhance their employment possibilities. At the same time, the program aims to use transformative approaches that draw from Indigenous knowledge systems and techniques such as storytelling, talking circles, theater/drama/song and dance, hands-on activities, and language.

## Minisinaakwaang Hires Staff, Seeks BIE Status

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy will open its doors this fall with several new staff, as well as new hope for federal support.

Last year's director, Josh Mailhot, has moved on, so the school is working with consultant Paul McGlynn to hire new teachers and find a full-time director.

McGlynn has been working closely with Amber Bucknaga, who is the new Ojibwe Language and Culture Department Coordinator. Amber has been working at the school since 2012 and has served as a paraprofessional, school board member and language nest planning coordinator. She's enrolled at Leech Lake but has lived her entire life in the Minisinaakwaang area.

Amber is a graduate of Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College and is planning to enroll in the new teacher training program that is a partnership between FDLTCC and Winona State. Eight others in the community, six who work at the school, are also interested in the program, Amber said.

"We want our school to be full of teachers from our community," said Amber. "Eventually we want to be an immersion school pre-K to 12, but for now we are working on getting language teachers licensed." Until then, language apprentices improve their skills by working with Ojibwe speakers in the community like Vincent Merrill, Niib, Winnie LaPrairie and Brenda Moose.

The school will employ five licensed teachers to cover kin-

dergarten through 12th grade. There are 27 students enrolled for fall.

Amber said the school staff is working on developing a sports program and a quiz bowl team.

The charter school also has a new authorizer, IQS, which provides the service to many schools around the country.

Eventually the community hopes a charter school authorizer will become unnecessary. A research project is underway to show that the U.S. government once ran a school in the community, which would make Minisinaakwaang eligible to become a Bureau of Indian Education school like Nay Ah Shing.

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## Happy September Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Joe Anderson Jr.  
Sandra Lynne Anderson  
Cynthia Mae Benjamin  
Dennis Wayne Benjamin  
Joyce Marie Benjamin  
Julie Louise Benjamin  
Joanne Frances Boyd  
Rose Marie Bugg  
James Douglas Colstrud  
Keith Edward Dahlberg  
Roger Dorr  
Raymond Allen Eubanks  
Lloyd Dale Evans  
Shirley Ann Evans  
Lorena Joy Gahbow  
Joseph Wm. Garbow  
Ricky Joe Garbow  
Roger Duane Garbow  
Bernice Bea Gardner  
Lisa Celeste Griffin  
Loretta Lea Hansen

Carol Anne Hernandez  
Bernida Mae Humetewa  
Donna Lianne Iverson  
Kathleen Lorena Johnson  
Beverly Marie Jones  
Marlan Wayne Lucas  
Rueben Dale Merrill  
Carol Jean Mojica  
Jacqueline Jean Moltaji  
Elmer Eugene Nayquonabe  
Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe  
Laureen Jennifer Nickaboine  
DeWayne Michael Pike  
Alan Ray Premo  
Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce  
Bernadine Joyce Roberts  
Carol Ann Sam  
Darlene Joyce Sam  
Karen Louise Sam  
Melanie Lou Sam  
Kevin Duane Schaaf  
Janice Arlene StandingCloud  
Charles W. Sutton  
Judie Erma Thomas  
Julie Erna Thomas

Marty Russell Thomas  
Russell Harvey Thomas  
Arne Vainio Jr.  
Leonard Wayne Weyaus  
Richard James Weyaus  
Bonita Diane White  
Donald Ray Williams  
Dale Barnet Wind

## Happy September Birthdays:

Happy 31st birthday to **Sarah Day!** From your Siesta Snook Lopez Boswell. • Happy 8th Birthday to **Cheyauna Rei Boswell** on 9/1 from Neema, Snook, Jaagaab, Gramma Frances, Baby Ricki Leila, Baby Ant and Big Brother Antwaun Sr. • Happy birthday to **Daddy (Tony Pike)** and **Grandma (Deloris Pike)** on 9/3! Love, Stina Pike. • Happy birthday **Dad** on 9/3! Love Kevin. •

Happy birthday to **Adrienne Benjamin!** From Cousin Barbara Jo and Family. • Happy 10th birthday to **Sy Monster** on 9/6! Love you nephew! Love, Auntie Danielle, Uncle Gabe, Gramma TT, Kenny, Josh, Caddy, Lolo and Freddie. • Happy birthday to **Sarah Oswaldson** on 9/8! From Snookz. • Happy birthday to **Charlotte** on 9/9! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy 31st Birthday to **Snook Boswell** on 9/10! From Laila Ricket cheyeauna Baby Ant neema gram Fran sugaShane. • Happy birthday **Chris Earl Sam** on 9/13! From Cousin Barbara Jo and Family. • Happy 10th birthday to **Kenny III** on 9/14! Love you lots son! Love, Mom, stepdad, Gabe, Gramma TT, Joshy, Caddy Lolo and Freddie. • Happy birthday to **Brad** on 9/17! Love your

brothers and sissys! • Happy birthday **Darlene "Doll" Sam** on 9/23! From Cousin Barbara Jo and Family. • Happy birthday to **Nadine** on 9/28! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to **Tracy** on 9/29! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy 18th birthday to **Ian Bearheart** on 9/29! From Grandma Barb, Dad, Uncle Bunny, Uncle Brandon, Uncle Bear and Auntie Jo.

## Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Myles Gorham at [myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com](mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com) or **call 612-465-0653**. *The deadline for the October issue is September 15.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Community Health Fairs

Mark your calendar! Community Health Fairs will be held on the following days: District III, Oct. 25; District II, Oct. 26; District I, Oct. 27; District IIa, Oct. 28. The theme this year is "Community Health Journey."

### Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Susan Klapel, <i>DNR Executive Director</i>	320-362-1756
Ed Minnema, <i>Commissioner of Education</i>	320-630-0674
Sam Moose, <i>Commissioner of Health &amp; Human Services</i>	320-630-2607
Percy Benjamin, <i>Commissioner of Community Development</i>	320-630-2496
Michele Palomaki, <i>Assistant Commissioner of Administration</i>	320-630-7415
Catherine Colstrud, <i>Commissioner of Administration</i>	320-292-0258

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

### Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center  
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center  
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building  
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

### Open Gym

Mondays – Thursdays, 5:30 – 9 p.m.  
District I Community Center

### Elders Beading Group

Mondays, 5 – 8 p.m.  
District I Assisted Living Unit



The winners of 2016 Iskigamizigan Powwow Royalty Contest were Shianna Smallwood, Jenai Beaulieu, Robert Anderson and Aidan Brooks. Miigwech and congratulations to all who competed!

WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS LEAVES TURNING MOON SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Want your event here?</b>                      Email <a href="mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com">myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com</a> or call 612-465-0653.</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://millelacsband.com/calendar">millelacsband.com/calendar</a> for additional Mille Lacs Band events</p> <p><b>Band Assembly meetings begin at 10 a.m. Locations and times are subject to change.</b></p>				<p><b>1</b>  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Nayahshing Band                      Assembly Chambers  <b>COH Outreach</b>                      11 a.m. – 2 p.m.                      Urban Office</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>MLB Government Closed at Noon</b></p>	<p><b>3</b>  <i>Mitig: tree                      Mitigokaa: There are many trees.</i></p>
<p><b>4</b>  <i>Aniibiish: leaf                      Aniibiishikaa: There are many leaves.                      Ozaawibagaa: There are yellow/brown leaves.</i></p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>Elders Beading Group</b>                      5 – 8 p.m.                      District I Assisted Living Unit  <b>MLB Government Closed for Labor Day</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Nayahshing Band                      Assembly Chambers</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>Regalia Making Class</b>                      5:30 – 7:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>COH Outreach (DII)</b>                      9 a.m. – 12 p.m.                      DII Community Center  <b>Back to School Event</b>                      5:30 – 7:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Nayahshing Band                      Assembly Chambers</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament</b>                      9 a.m.                      Black Bear Casino Resort</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>Family Golf Outing</b>                      9 a.m.                      Grand National Golf Club</p>
<p><b>11</b>  <i>Gikinoo’amaadiwigamig: A school                      Gikinoo’amaagozi: S/he goes to school</i></p>	<p><b>12</b>  <i>Gekinoo’amaaged: a teacher                      Gikinoo’amaagewikwe: a female teacher                      Gikinoo’amaagewinini: a male teacher</i></p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Minisinaakwaang ALU</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>DI Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>Elder Services Meeting</b>                      East Lake ALU DII  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Intercontinental Riverfront Hotel                      St. Paul, MN</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <i>Gekinoo’amaagan: a student</i></p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>2nd Annual Chameleon 5k Run/Walk</b>                      10 a.m.                      Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Powwow Grounds</p>
<p><b>18</b>  <i>Naawakwe-wiisini: S/he eats lunch.                      Nawapo: S/he takes provisions along, takes a lunch along.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b>  <i>Dagwaagin: It is fall/autumn.                      Endaso-dagwaagi: Every fall.</i></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>COH Outreach (DIII)</b>                      11 a.m. – 2 p.m.                      DIII Community Center  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Chi Minising Community Center</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>DIII Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Meeting at Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <i>Gigizhebaa-wiisini: S/he eats breakfast</i></p>	<p><b>24</b>  <i>Giishpin: If Giishpin biigoseg l’iw odaabanish, mii go imaa izhi-nagadan: If that old car breaks down, just leave it there.</i></p>
<p><b>25</b>  <i>Dash: and, and then, but.                      Ingii-wiisin niin zhigwa. Giin dash. I already ate. Did you?</i></p>	<p><b>26</b>  <i>Anishinaabemo: S/he speaks Ojibwe, speaks an Indian language.                      Indanishinaabem: I speak Ojibwe, speak an Indian language.</i></p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>Healthy Heart Class</b>                      12 – 1 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>Sobriety Feast</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>DIIa Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 – 7:30 p.m.                      All Nations Indian Church  <b>DII Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.  <b>Band Assembly</b>                      Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p><b>30</b>  <i>Niminwendaan waabaminaan. I’m glad to see you.</i></p>	<p><i>You can practice Ojibwe on your own by using the Ojibwe People’s Dictionary at <a href="http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>.</i></p>



Chi Miigwech to all of the powwow committees, staff and volunteers who make our annual powwows a success!

# U.N. Declaration of Indigenous Rights Discussed at Workshop

About 30 tribal leaders from across Minnesota came to Grand Casino Hinckley on Aug. 4 to meet with staff from the Indian Law Resource Center. Executive Director Robert "Tim" Coulter and attorney Jana Walker presented on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and discussed how tribes can become active in international affairs to ensure that their rights are being protected.

After Amik gave an invocation, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who is on the board of the Indian Law Resource Center, introduced the meeting by talking about the organization's advocacy on behalf of tribes, including protection of sacred sites, language and culture, and stopping violence against women and human trafficking.

Jana Walker summarized the content of the U.N. Declaration and spoke of the Center's work to end violence against indigenous women.

Tim Coulter talked about how tribes can lobby the international body through written statements, proposals, objections to U.S. actions, raising concerns about rights violations, and gaining allies from other countries and indigenous peoples.

Coulter also talked about the 30-year process of getting the Declaration passed. Efforts began with appearances by tribal leaders in 1977. The U.N. passed the Declaration in 2007, but four countries, including the U.S., refused to support it. In 2010, the U.S. became the last of those four countries to reverse its position and support the Declaration.

Coulter also said the United Nations is in the process of making it possible for indigenous tribal governments to participate at the U.N. "For the first time, tribal governments will be able to re-join the community of world governments," Coulter said. "That's big. That's historic."

The Declaration, according to Coulter, "recognizes that indigenous peoples throughout the world have a permanent right to exist as peoples, nations, cultures and societies." Its 46 articles cover rights to lands, resources, enhanced jurisdiction, education, consultation, economic development, culture and language, and other topics.

Jamie Edwards of the Band's Government Affairs Division brought a friend from the Inca tribe in Colombia, who shared a video about his tribe's successful battle to regain control of lands.

For the entire U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, visit <http://bit.ly/2byCarh>. The workshop was hosted by the Mille Lacs Band and sponsored by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.



Tim Coulter and Jana Walker presented on the United Nations and the Indian Law Resource Center at Grand Casino Hinckley Aug. 4.

## Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2016	Expenditures through 6/30/2016	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	16,035,962	10,229,402	63.79%
Department of Labor	21,184,777	4,743,094	22.39%
Judicial	1,384,116	752,207	54.35%
Department of Justice	5,776,849	3,717,876	64.36%
Education	18,503,967	12,621,378	68.21%
Health and Human Services	23,812,402	13,736,553	57.69%
Circle of Health Insurance	9,976,600	5,030,746	50.43%
Natural Resources	7,751,958	5,687,314	73.37%
Community Development	86,088,126	20,754,028	24.11%
Gaming Authority	5,265,965	3,148,141	59.78%
Economic Supplemental Distribution	2,992,601	2,201,485	73.56%
Bonus Distribution	33,816,117	31,971,665	94.55%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,171,000	3,171,000	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>235,760,440</b>	<b>117,764,889</b>	<b>49.95%</b>

- (1) Administration includes Chief Executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
  - (2) Casino operations are not reported above, however they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
  - (3) The Financial Statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
  - (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.
- As of October 1, 1997, the Band established separate accounting functions for Corporate Ventures from the tribal government.



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## Heating, Water, or Maintenance Problems?

**During normal business hours:** tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

## Design Committee Members Needed

The Health and Human Services Department is looking for Mille Lacs Band community members to help design the new District I Health and Human Services Building and District II Minisinaakwaang Clinic. As a facility user and community member, we feel your input to the design process would be very helpful in designing buildings the community will use and enjoy.

If you have any questions or are interested in being on either the District I or District II HHS design committees, please contact Jeff Larson or Michelle Beaulieu at 320-532-4163.