



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government
Office of the Chief Executive*

August 27, 2024

Via E-mail

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Nomination of Darcie Big Bear as Commissioner of Administration

Dear Band Assembly:

Under 4 MLBS §§ 5 and 6(b), I hereby nominate **Darcie Big Bear** to serve as the Band's Commissioner of Administration for a term ending June 30, 2025. I have posted the position for all to apply and received twelve applicants, eleven of whom are Band members. Among a strong pool of candidates, Darcie's name quickly rose to the top. Darcie is a strong Native woman, and I cannot think of a better person to serve as the Band's top administrator.

Darcie stands out amongst her peers for several reasons. First, Darcie is a long-time employee and servant of the Band, excelling in various capacities over the course of more than 23 years. Darcie has experience working in every branch of Band government and has adhered to high ethical standards in each of her roles. Darcie is driven, organized, and always willing to learn. These are hallmarks of a great leader. They are also traits I require out of the next Commissioner of Administration.

In addition to being a model employee, Darcie has also taken the time to improve herself academically. While working as Parliamentarian and Clerk of the Band Assembly, Darcie worked hard to achieve her Master's Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. And she accomplished all of this after overcoming the struggles of being a teenage mother. I commend Darcie for striving to obtain new heights and for setting a positive example for Band members. Such dedication and diligence should not only be rewarded, but also used to the utmost benefit to the Band.

Finally, Darcie has demonstrated throughout her life that she is an integral part of the Mille Lacs Band Community. From dancing in powwows and attending ceremonies to helping out at youth activities, Darcie has contributed to the betterment of our communities in so many ways. She is the exact type of person I want representing the Mille Lacs Band both here at home and before outside entities. Said differently, Darcie is a fantastic representative of who we are as people. She is an Anishinaabe ikwe through and through.

If Darcie is confirmed as the next Commissioner of Administration, I anticipate re-nominating her for a second term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2029. It is very important

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that I nominate someone I believe can stabilize and improve Band government over the next five years. I hope that you will agree.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or comments. I have also enclosed Darcie's resume in order to comply with Legislative Order 37-22. When a confirmation hearing is scheduled, please inform my office of the date as I would appreciate the opportunity to attend.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Band Assembly
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel
Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General

Enclosure:

1. Darcie Big Bear's Resume