



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

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

July 16, 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: Legislative Priorities

Dear Band Assembly:

It is my distinguished honor to have been sworn in as the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive. Congratulations also to Representative Beaulieu for stepping into her new role as District I Representative. As a former Band Assembly member, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the roles you play in your respective communities and for the legislation you produce. Our tribe cannot move forward to brighter days without you.

During my time as a legislator, we pursued several policies which, unfortunately, never came to fruition. In some cases, my fellow District Representatives and I managed to approve significant pieces of legislation which were later vetoed by the Chief Executive. These vetoed acts and ordinances include:

- 1) Ordinance 05-21 (Enacting the HEARTH Act);
- 2) Ordinance 43-22 (Amending Title 5 – Judicial Branch);
- 3) Act 27-23 (Amending Title 15, chapter 4 – TERO);
- 4) Act 31-23 (Amending Title 22, chapter 2 – Enacting Burial Assistance Program); and
- 5) Act 19-24 (Biennium Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025).

I am writing to inform you that, if the Band Assembly elects to approve any of these measures in substantially similar form, I would be more than pleased to sign them into law. The fully executed versions of these measures should be available on the Tribal Register. The Legislative Branch full-time personnel should also have corresponding Word documents on file.

The previous Band Assembly was working on Title 15, chapter 3 – Band Member Legal Services; Title 19 – Motor Vehicles; and Title 17, chapter 1 – Revolving Loan Fund. If the Band Assembly elects to continue this work, I would also be interested in the adoption of a probate code, an election code, and a fee lands leasing code. Finally, I am open to discussing reform of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' governing structure and revisions to the Band's Revenue Allocation Plan. I know these are all extremely tall tasks, but I trust the Band Assembly to set the legislative priorities for the Band.

Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to Band Assembly

Re: Legislative Priorities

July 16, 2024

Page 2 of 2

As some of the listed measures may be new to the District Representatives, I assume workshops will be held for review of the draft bills. If invited by the Legislative Branch, my Legal and Policy Counsel, Hanna Valento, will attend the workshops in hopes of collaboration between the branches. If you wish to invite her, please send her an e-mail or Outlook invite at hanna.valento@millelacsband.com.

I thank you for your consideration and for all the work you do. I look forward to starting a new chapter in which the Executive and Legislative Branches work together to enact important legislation for the good of the Band. Working together is how we will achieve the future we all want for our people.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Darcie BigBear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Band Assembly
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel