



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Via E-mail

Virgil Wind
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

October 25, 2024

Commissioner Tikki Brown
Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families
444 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: American Indian Child Welfare Initiative

Dear Commissioner Brown:

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has been actively working on the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative since October 2020. During this planning process, we found numerous barriers to the Band's readiness and ability to become an Initiative tribe. After much analysis, we have collaboratively determined that the Band will not be ready to pursue the Initiative in coming years, as it would cause undue hardship to our children, families, and staff.

The Band sees family preservation as the route to serving our families. We request the opportunity to renegotiate funds that were allocated for the Initiative, with the intention of building local/internal capacity to support the Band's children and families through preservation services.

Please feel free to contact me at virgil.wind@millelacsband.com if you have any questions.

Miigwech,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Virgil Wind", is written over a horizontal line.

Virgil Wind
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe