



## *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

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

*Via U.S. Mail and E-mail*

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

August 8, 2024

Governor Tim Walz  
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan,

I am Virgil Wind, the newly elected Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Miigwech to you both for all the hard work and support your administration has shown the Mille Lacs Band over the years. We are truly honored by your partnership.

Congratulations are also in order to Governor Walz for being chosen as Kamal Harris' presidential running mate. It is a testament to the great work you have both done not only for the state of Minnesota, but also for Indian country.

During my time as District I Representative, I had the honor of meeting you both on a few occasions. Both then and now, I am impressed by your willingness to engage with tribal communities directly.

Now as Chief Executive, I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively on issues of importance to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. It is my hope to build on the exceptional government-to-government relationship that has already been established.

To that point, our team is moving forward and preparing for several consultation sessions with your agency staff over the next few months. We plan to explore shared legislative priorities at these meetings and to work with agency leaders and tribal liaisons to further develop our respective goals.

Let me also say I share many of the same goals as our previous Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin, who served our tribal nation well for nearly 25 years.

**Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan**  
**August 8, 2024**  
**Page 2 of 2**

As the new Chief Executive, I am now charged with leading the important work of protecting the people, lands, and sovereign authority of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. My focus will be on helping our people realize their hopes and dreams. I take this responsibility very seriously. The health and well-being of our Anishinaabe people is my top priority.

Again, Miigwech for establishing such a great framework to build on.

I look forward to working together to solves issues of importance to Native people. Please feel free to reach out anytime. My personal number is (320) 630-1428. I look forward to crossing paths with you again, whether here or in St. Paul.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe