



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

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

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

Transmittal via e-mail

January 22, 2025

Mary Sue Anderson
Director, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy
20930 367th Lane
McGregor, MN 55760

Re: Letter of Support for Preservation of Ojibwe Language

Boozhoo Mary Sue,

As Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, I am happy to offer this letter of support for the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's effort to preserve the Ojibwe language. Establishing a kindergarten immersion classroom within the Academy and through the elementary grades ensures that the Minisinaakwaang community's children will have an opportunity to learn our sacred language. The Mille Lacs Band is fully aware of the limited number of first language speakers and the importance of creating immersion programs to preserve the language.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has supported the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy since its creation in 2007. We facilitated and supported the building of a state-of-the-art facility, annual funding for the academic and special education programming, along with funding to develop the "Path to Immersion" initiative. We will continue to support the efforts of the Academy and the Minisinaakwaang community in providing quality educational services for their children.

I offer this letter of support as you pursue an Ojibwe Language Immersion grant from the Shakopee Community. Please contact me by e-mail at virgil.wind@millelacsband.com or by phone at (320) 630-1428 if you have further 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