



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-03

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING THE NON-REMOVABLE MILLE LACS BANDS OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS TO BE IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Section 1. Findings

The Chief Executive finds the following:

- (a) the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19, a novel coronavirus, a pandemic;
- (b) on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia;
- (c) on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Walz declared Minnesota to be in a “peace-time State of Emergency” and the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota are rising daily;
- (d) the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised that older adults and people with certain underlying health conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, heart disease or other chronic diseases are at increased risk of contracting the virus and will have a harder time fighting COVID-19;
- (e) a large body of research has proven the prevalence of these conditions among tribal communities, including the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, is much higher than in non-Indian communities, meaning that our Band communities are especially vulnerable if COVID-19 were to spread through the Band; and
- (f) a declaration of a State of Emergency is a pre-requisite for jurisdictions to ensure availability and utilization of all necessary tribal, state and federal government services, resources, equipment, and suppliers which will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the health, lives, property, and resources of the Mille Lacs Band and Band Members.

Section 2. Sources of Authority

The Chief Executive issues this executive order pursuant to 4 MLBSA § 6 (e) and 28 MLBSA § 4.

Section 3. Declaration of State of Emergency

The Chief Executive declares a State of Emergency for the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Bands of Chippewa Indians in response to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the State of Minnesota and the United States.

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Section 4. Implementation of Emergency Operations Plan

The Chief Executive directs:

- (a) the implementation of the Band's emergency operations plan; and
- (b) the Tribal Emergency Response Committee to provide Band resources and services necessary to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in our community and to procure any necessary supplies and equipment.

Dated this 15th Day of March, 2020.



Official Seal of the Band

Melanie Benjamin

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin