



# E7G - Enrolling Seven Generations: Mille Lacs Band Blood Quantum Project

Presented by:  
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Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



**The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is comprised of the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer from each of the 6 Bands.**

**There are 12 voting Members of the TEC.**

**Each TEC member has 1 vote on all issues, so Mille Lacs has 2 votes.**



- **At least 1 parent (living or deceased) must be an enrolled MLB member**
- **1/4 degree of MCT Indian blood – “Blood Quantum”**
- **Moratorium October 24, 2001**

# What is BLOOD QUANTUM?



- **The Federal government invented “Blood Quantum” in the 1930’s.**
- **Designed to slowly reduce the number of enrolled tribal members**
- **If a tribe ceased to exist, the U.S. would get the tribe’s land**



- **Nelson Act of 1889: Attempted to move all Ojibwe outside the Red Lake Reservation to the White Earth Reservation.**
- **Opened up reservation lands for exploitation by the timber industry.**
- **"Full-bloods" were not allowed to sell land, so many were tricked into claiming to be slightly less than full-blood quantum.**

# A Discovery by the White Earth Nation:



- In 2019, the White Earth Nation discovered that 1,089 original allottees of White Earth, **Mille Lacs**, Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Bands of the MCT were discovered whose blood quantum had somehow changed between 1901 and 1941.
- These 1,089 people were listed as **full-bloods** in the 1901 Allotment List.....
- **But in the 1941 basic Membership Roll, their status had changed to mixed bloods.**
- **89 of these 1,089 people were Mille Lacs Band Members**



## **The TEC voted to adopt Resolution 36-20 in 2019:**

**“It shall be the policy of the MCTC to restore full-blood status to the 1089 original allottees including any subsequent discovery of allottees listed as full-blood on one blood roll.”**

# How Resolution 36-20 is being Handled by MCT



**The MCT does not have the staffing to change all 1,089 allottees back to full-blood status.**

**When an MCT Member who is denied enrollment appeals the decision, MCT Enrollment committee/staff review the 1,089 list to see if the person appealing enrollment is related to one of the 1,089.**

**Recommendation:** Mille Lacs Band descendants who are denied enrollment because their blood quantum is slightly less than 25% should appeal the decision to see if they are a descendant of one of the 1,089.

**Descendants can also re-apply for enrollment.**



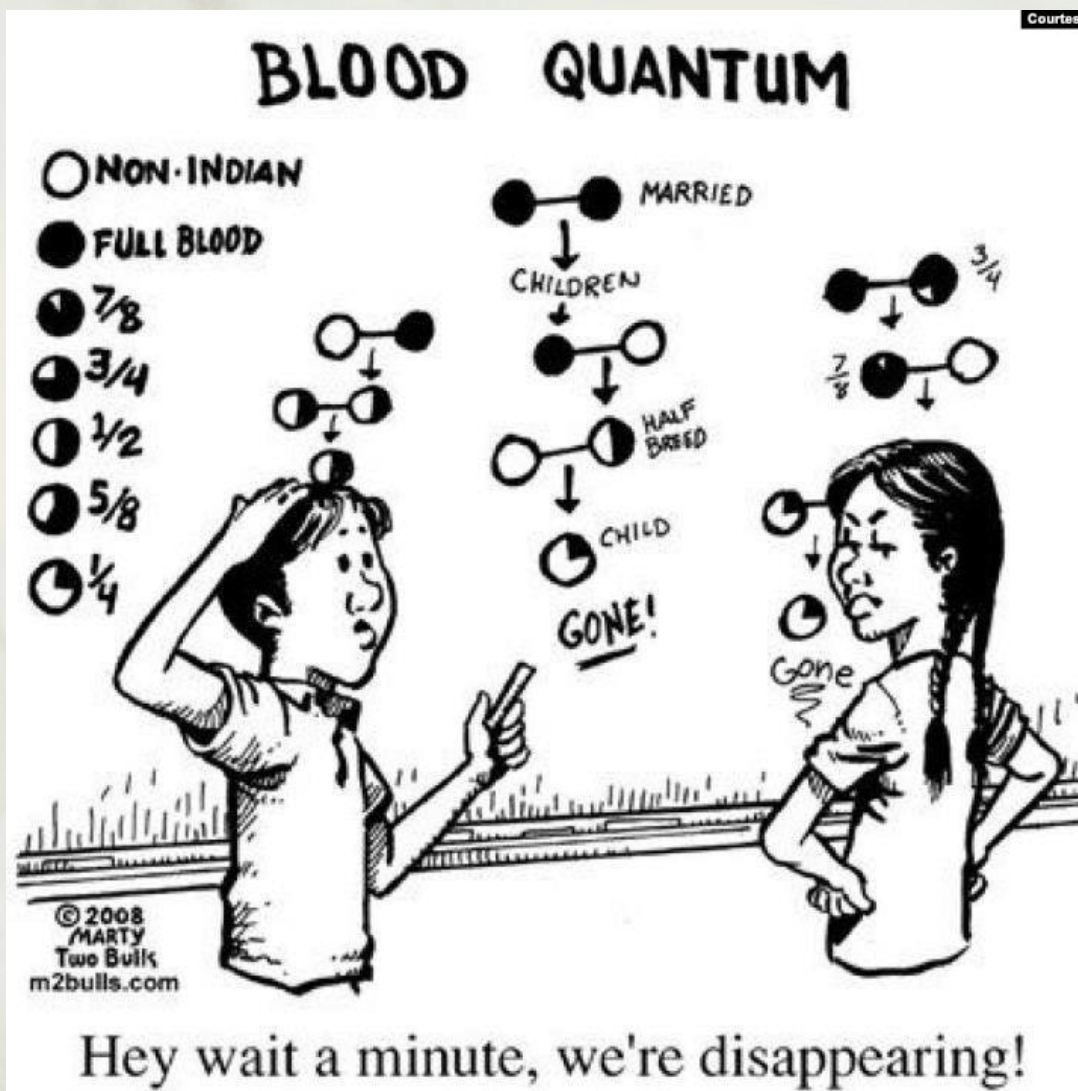
## ENROLLMENT = CITIZENSHIP

- **Being enrolled with an Indian tribe is a political status, not a racial status.**
- **We are **citizens** of a sovereign Indian tribal government.**
- **We are called “BAND MEMBERS” but we **NOT** members of a club.**



**For decades, MCT Members have been concerned that the blood quantum requirement of  $\frac{1}{4}$  MCT blood is too restrictive.**

**Enrollment is declining especially fast for smaller Bands**



Cartoon  
created  
by Artist Marty  
Two-Bulls,  
Oglala



**Visit the Native Governance Center at [nativegov.org](http://nativegov.org) to watch an informative video about blood quantum (click to play)**





- In 2012, the MCT hired **the Wilder Foundation's Research Team** to conduct an MCT Population Projection Report.
- It's purpose was to understand:
  - 1. What other non-MCT blood exists within MCT Membership**
  - 2. To predict future membership trends for the MCT and each Band based on different scenarios.**



## What happens to MCT/Band enrollment if...

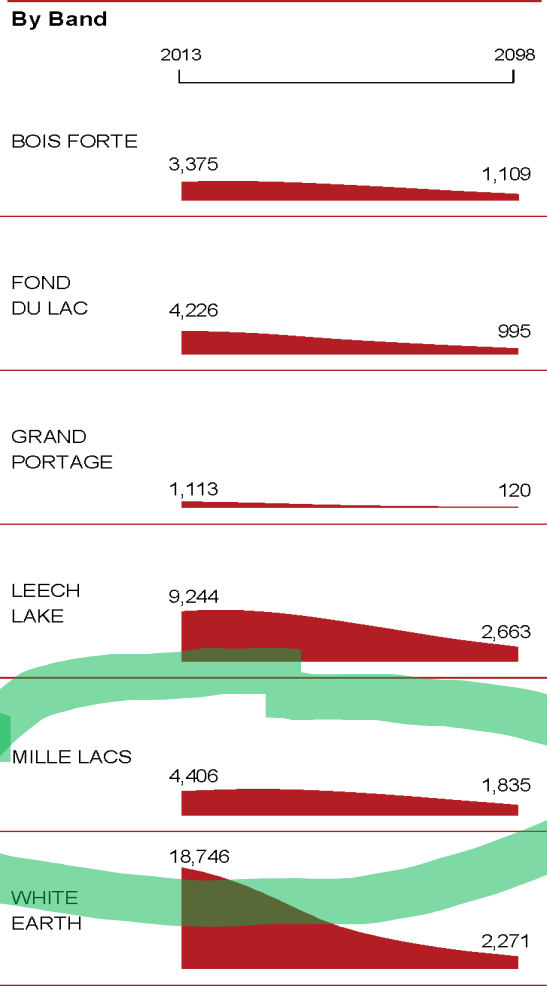
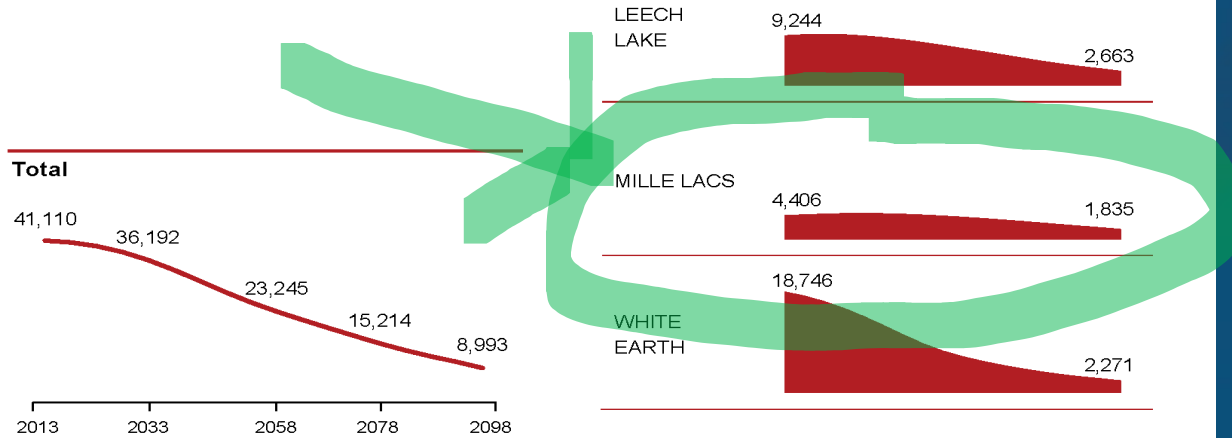
1. **No changes** are made to Blood Quantum
2. Keep  $\frac{1}{4}$  Blood Quantum, but allow **other Anishinaabe U.S.** blood to count toward  $\frac{1}{4}$  threshold
3. Keep  $\frac{1}{4}$  Blood Quantum, but allow **other federally recognized U.S. and verifiable First Nations Blood** (non-Anishinaabe) to count toward  $\frac{1}{4}$  threshold.
4. Change Blood Quantum to  **$\frac{1}{8}^{\text{th}}$  MCT blood**
5. **Get rid of blood quantum** and change to lineal descendance. Descendants of enrolled members on 1941 base census roll could be enrolled.



# Scenario 1

Population projections for the Minnesota Chippewa tribe assuming no changes are made to the enrollment criteria, which is currently set at a threshold of 1/4 MCT blood to be eligible for enrollment

This is the most restrictive scenario, since it limits enrollment to the current standard of at least 1/4 MCT blood quantum to be eligible for tribal enrollment. Leaving the tribal enrollment criteria as is, the projected enrolled population declines from just over 41,000 in 2013 to just under 9,000 in 2098. This represents a decline of approximately 78 percent or more than 32,000 members.



**Predicted Enrollment by 2098 for the 6 Bands if no changes are made to blood quantum.**

- Wilder Research, 2014

**MLB in 2014: 4,406**  
**MLB in 2098: 1,835**

# 2013 WILDER REPORT RESULTS FOR MILLE LACS BAND:



## Scenarios: What happens BY 2098 if....

## Results for Mille Lacs Band by 2098

1. No Change in Blood Quantum **1,835**
2. Keep ¼: Allow **other Anishinaabe U.S. and First Nations** blood to count toward ¼ **2,160 – 4,052**
3. Keep ¼: Allow **other** federally recognized tribe (**non-Anishinaabe blood**) U.S. and First Nations blood to count toward ¼ **2,461 – 4,066**
4. Change blood quantum to **1/8** **8,454 – 10,657**
5. Change to **lineal descendency** (all descendants from 1941 base roll can be enrolled. No more blood quantum requirements.) **3,941 – 6,611**



In 2022, The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held a **Non-binding referendum.**

- Help Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to gain a sense of how the Members are feeling about a certain topic.

Non-binding means that the results **do not change** anything or “bind” the TEC to any particular actions.

# NUMBER OF VOTERS NEEDED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION:



- The MCT Constitution can only be changed if at least **30%** of all eligible voters participate in the election. If less than 30% vote, no changes to the constitution can be made.
- There are approximately **32,700** eligible MCT voters, so **at least 9800** must participate in the election for the results to count.
- In the 2022 referendum, only **7470** voters turned in ballots. If that had been a Secretarial election, there would not have been enough votes to make any changes.



**1. Should the Blood Quantum requirement be removed from membership requirements for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe?**

**YES: 4,778**

**NO: 2,629**

**2. Should the six reservations (Bands) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe be authorized to determine their own membership requirements by Band Ordinance?**

**YES: 4,236**

**NO: 2,989**



- **MCT MIGHT HOLD AN ELECTION ABOUT ENROLLMENT CRITERIA**
- **Community Meetings have been held over the past 2 years to prepare for the possibility of a Secretarial Election to change MCT Enrollment criteria.**



# **Mille Lacs Band Members Have Requested Updated Wilder Study to Predict MLB Population**

- Much larger survey group of 1200, versus 100 in 2013**



**Have hired the same Wilder Research Team to redo a study just for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to predict our future population**

**Look at the same possible 5 Changes from 2013 study**

**Called Enrolling Seven Generations: **E7G Mille Lacs Blood Quantum Study****



***All MLB members 18 and over will be mailed a survey to the address that is on record with the MLB Enrollment Office.*** 

***2023 Goal: 1000 survey returns, versus 100 in 2013***

***\$50 Incentive for all Band Members 18 and over who complete and return the Surveys to the Wilder Research Team***



**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Member Confidential Survey  
\$50 Incentive for Completing Survey before November 30, 2023**

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) has been discussing the possibility of changing the MCT Constitution to allow more people to become eligible for enrollment for many years. In the future, the MCT might hold a special secretarial election to ask all eligible MCT voters if you support changing the current requirement that a person must have at least one quarter (1/4) degree Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood in order to be eligible for enrollment with one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Any changes to the current one-quarter degree MCT blood quantum requirement would impact the growth or decline of our Band population.

**The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe wants our Band Members to be informed about how certain changes might impact the size of our enrolled population over time.** We have contracted with the Wilder Research Team at the Wilder Foundation to conduct a population projection study for the Mille Lacs Band. This study will predict how our population might grow or decline in the future. The only way this study can be completed is if Band Members fill out and return this survey about your blood quantum and your children's blood quantum.

Please complete this survey and send it back by December 15, 2023 in the postage paid return envelope. You may also complete the survey on-line at **INSERT URL**. **Your responses are confidential; no one except the study team at Wilder Research will see your answers. The Band is offering a \$50 incentive to each Band Member over 18 years of age who completes and returns the survey.** If you wish to receive the incentive, you must fill out your name and address. Your survey responses will not be shared with any Band official or employee, but Wilder will notify the Band of the names and mailing addresses of Band Members who should be sent a \$50.00 incentive. If you do not wish to share your name and address, please still fill out and return the survey. Wilder will destroy all surveys when the study is finished. If you have any questions, please contact (320) 532-7486 or [Enrollment\\_Survey@millelacsband.com](mailto:Enrollment_Survey@millelacsband.com).

Please answer every question that you can. If you do not know the answer, it is okay to give your best guess or leave it blank.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete this survey form and return it in the postage paid envelope, or if you would prefer to complete the survey online, please go to **INSERT URL** and use your tribal enrollment number as your PIN.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please DO NOT send any separate documentation at this time. We are only asking these questions for informational purposes; no enrollment status will be changed as the result of this survey.

**The first questions are about you.**

1a. Your tribal enrollment number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sharing your name and address is optional, but if you wish to receive a \$50 incentive for completing the survey, please provide your name and current mailing address.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Your gender:  Male  Female  Transgender/Other



**SAMPLE – DO NOT FILL OUT – SAMPLE – DO NOT FILL OUT -**

1c. The Mille Lacs Band has record of you as an enrolled member. What is your MN Chippewa Tribe (MCT) blood quantum? Enter your response as a fraction (for example: 1/2, 1/4, 23/64, 53/128). Please do NOT contact the Mille Lacs Enrollments Office if you are unsure, please provide your best guess. \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Outside of MN Chippewa Tribe, do you have any other Anishinabe blood from federally recognized American Indian tribes (such as Red Lake, Turtle Mountain, Red Cliff, Menominee, Cree, etc.)?

1 Yes →

2 No (go to 3a)

2b. What other Anishinabe tribe(s)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2c. What is your blood quantum for this tribe/these tribe(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. Outside of Chippewa/Ojibwe blood, do you have any blood from other federally recognized American Indian tribes (such as Dakota, Cherokee, Cheyenne, etc.)?

1 Yes →

2 No (go to 4)

3b. What other federally recognized American Indian tribes?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3c. What is your blood quantum for this tribe/these tribe(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

4a. Please check the box next to ONE of the following statements that you most agree with:

If changes to enrollment are going to be proposed and voted on, I believe that all voting-aged members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe should decide by referendum vote what (if any) changes should be made to enrollment requirements. (There are about 40,000 MCT members currently.) The Mille Lacs Band should have to follow whatever the majority of MCT members vote for.

If changes to enrollment are going to be proposed and voted on, I believe that the voting-aged members of the Mille Lacs Band Members are the only people who should be able to vote on enrollment changes for the Mille Lacs Band. (There are about 5,000 Mille Lacs members currently.) Each of the six Bands should be authorized to determine their own membership requirements for their Band, by Band ordinance.

4b. Please provide your feedback about MN Chippewa Tribe's and the Mille Lacs Band's current enrollment eligibility criteria, which is 1/4 (one-quarter) blood quantum, and any other comments about tribal enrollment and enrollment criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Next, we have some questions about your biological children. This information will help the Mille Lacs Band understand what effect changing tribal enrollment criteria could have on the Tribe's total population size.

**IMPORTANT:**



*If you do not have all information requested blood quantum information, please **DO NOT STOP** taking the survey.*

*It's fine to provide your **BEST GUESS** for the blood quantum questions.*

# MAKE SURE YOUR ADDRESS IS UPDATED



- Email [kris.Jensen@millelacsband.com](mailto:kris.Jensen@millelacsband.com) to make sure you are on our email list
- Call Enrollments Office at (320) 532-7730 or
- Email [Samantha.cash@millelacsband.com](mailto:Samantha.cash@millelacsband.com)
- Leave your name and current mailing address tonight with Commissioner Applegate or Executive Director Susan Klapel



**In February, 2015, the MCT adopted 2 Resolutions with proposed enrollment changes for the MCT Membership to vote on.**

*“The MCT TEC does hereby support this resolution pursuant to Article XII to call an election to amend Article II, section 1, by adding a paragraph that provides:*

***Resolution 31-15: MCT Members Indian blood “shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the **verified First Nation Anishinabe blood** possessed by the member.***

- Resolution 32-15: MCT Members Indian blood “shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the **verified federally recognized Anishinabe/Ojibway/Chippewa blood** possessed by the member.***
- (Both Resolutions passed on February 24, 2015)***



- **The TEC has begun the process of holding a special secretarial election, where the results would be binding.**
- **TEC has proposed allowing MCT Members to vote on Resolution 32-15:**

**Should “Other Anishinaabe blood” from other Chippewa/Ojibwe Bands in the United States be counted toward the 1/4 MCT blood quantum requirement?**



- **Red Lake Nation**
- **Turtle Mountain**
- **St. Croix, LCO, Lac du Flambeau and all other Bands in Wisconsin identifying as “Anishinabe”**
- **Sioux St. Marie, Saginaw Chippewa, Grand Traverse and all other Bands in Michigan identifying as “Anishinaabe”**
- **Little Shell Chippewa (Montana)**



- **BIA has procedural concerns**
- **TEC has not resolved those yet**
- **MCT asked to launch an educational campaign - has not yet happened**

# 1 opinion question will be asked on the Wilder Survey:



*Do you believe our approximate 4,900 Band Members should have to follow a new enrollment criteria voted on by voters from 41,000 MCT Members,*

*OR should MLB members be the only voters should decide what enrollment criteria should be for Mille Lacs?*



**Questions? Please email:**

**[Enrollment.Survey@millelacsband.com](mailto:Enrollment.Survey@millelacsband.com)**

**or call (320) 532-7486**

- **For resources, visit**

**<https://millelacsband.com/home/faq/mct-faq>**



MIIGWECH!