

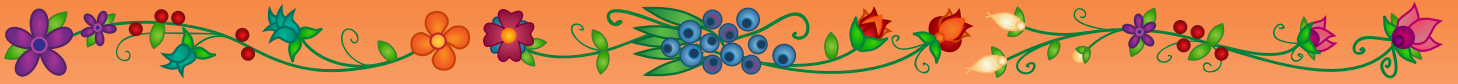
LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

*Our Past, Our Present & Our Future Initiatives*



*Our Past, Our Present & Our Future Initiatives*



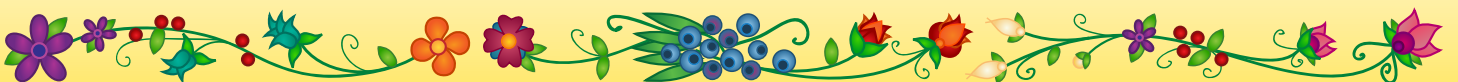


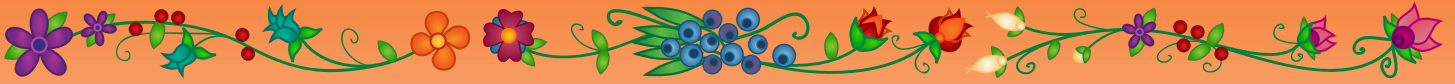
# LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE MISSION STATEMENT



THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE  
IS COMMITTED TO  
THE RESPONSIBLE OPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT,  
PRESERVATION OF OUR HERITAGE,  
PROMOTION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY,  
AND THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FOR OUR ELDERS & FUTURE GENERATIONS,  
WHILE ENHANCING THE HEALTH,  
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, EDUCATION, &  
OUR INHERENT RIGHT  
TO LIVE AS OJIBWE PEOPLE.

DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN WHITE, EDITED BY SIMONE GREENLEAF, OJIBWE FLORAL GRAPHIC BY CARI TABOR.



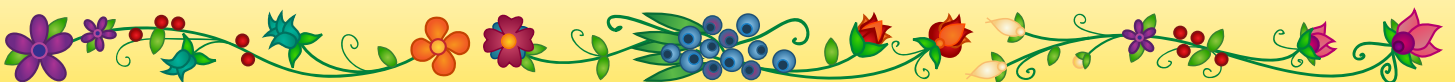


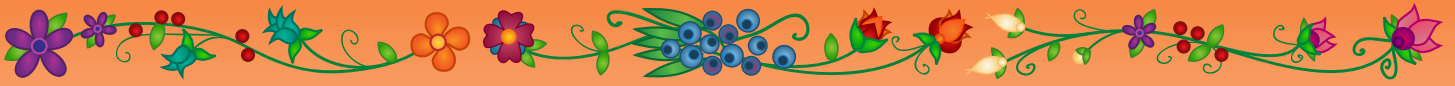
# LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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LAYOUT & DESIGN BY STARR WHITE, AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON FAIRBANKS





# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LEECH LAKE BAND OJIBWE

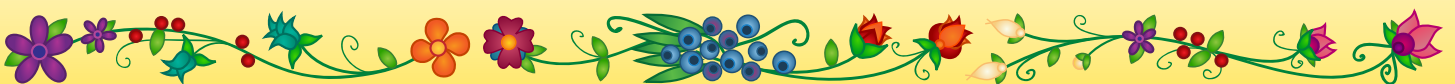
Preserved through traditional stories; the account of the Anishinaabe migration from the shores of the Atlantic to the shores of Leech Lake and beyond, chronicle our ancestry, culture, traditions, and the many aspects that have rooted our ancient connection to this place we call home. The “Three Fire Confederacy” (Anishinaabe, Odaawaa, and Potawatomi) began this journey together, but on the course of the migration, groups chose to make their homes at different landmarks along the route. Four major stops along the way were, the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, the shores of Lake Huron, Sault Ste. Marie and LaPoint Island. The Ojibwe also stopped for over a century at Madeleine Island as they were beginning to displace the Dakota from the upper-woodlands. The journey took about three centuries, and was guided by teachings that were recorded on birch bark scrolls using a writing style we called “miziniichigan”. Western scholars refer to these records as mnemonic devices, or as pictographic symbolism.

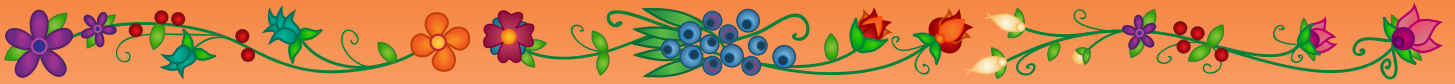
In the late eighteenth century, after our arrival in the area that is now Minnesota, the clan system organized and delineated individual duties. Through the migration, some clans split from the main contingency, and after the migration there were five key clans to which all others were connected. This system was used in the decision-making process, what we would refer to now as a “governing structure”.

During the late nineteenth century, what was to become the Leech Lake Reservation was formed through a series of Treaties and Executive Orders. The Treaty of 1855 established our land-base three years before Minnesota was admitted to the Union as the 32nd State. The Indian Reorganization Act, signed into law in 1934, established the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) which is the centralized organization under which the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was created. The MCT was established on June 18, 1934, but the organization and its constitution were recognized by the Secretary of the Interior two years later on July 24, 1936.

As World War II came to a close, “Indian Termination” was the policy of the United States from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s. This initiative declared that Native Americans would be better off if assimilated as individuals into mainstream American society. Therefore, Congress proposed to end the special relationship between tribes and the federal government. The intention was to grant Native Americans all the rights and privileges of citizenship, and to reduce dependence. In other words, the policy terminated the U.S. government’s recognition of sovereignty, trusteeship of Indian reservations, and exclusion of Indians from state laws.

Along with the uprising of the civil rights movement of the early 1960’s came the age where tribal governments really took hold and began to form. Under the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe’s Constitution the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe’s By-Laws were adopted and implemented. These documents would





become the foundation that would forge the very beginnings of the governments that we now have.

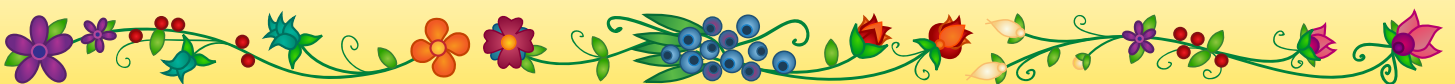
This new chapter of Tribal self-determination that took form in the 1960's and grew in the 1970's developed even more in the 1980's to offer more services and programs for enrolled band members.

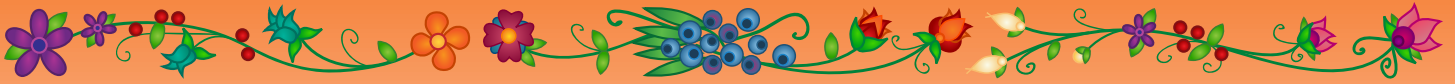
Russell and Helen Bryan, an Ojibwe couple living in northern Minnesota, got a property tax bill from Itasca County. They never received anything like this before. Unwilling to pay, they took the tax notice to a Leech Lake attorney who brought suit to challenge the tax in the State courts. The Bryans lost their case, and they lost again on appeal in a unanimous decision by the Minnesota Supreme Court. They then sought review in the United States Supreme Court. In a far-reaching and unanimous decision the US Supreme Court held not only that states do not have authority to tax Indians on Indian reservations, but that they also lack the authority to regulate Indian activities on Indian reservations. Within a couple years, Tribes began to operate bingo halls in several different locations around the United States. The stage was now set for Indian gaming to take hold and help usher in an era that would help rebuild and enhance the lives of American Indians across the country.

In 1988, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) which authorized tribes to create casino like halls, but the states and Indians must be in Tribal-State compacts, and the federal government has the power to regulate the gaming. Essentially, the IGRA maintained that the tribes still have a right to all classes of gaming except when states do not accept that class or it clashes with a federal law.

Since the explosion of gaming into reservation life, Leech Lake has developed three separate gaming operations in order to generate revenue and help enhance band member lives. With the revenue from gaming, other enterprises have been created to help bolster our economic base to create jobs and foster the growth of our local economy. With the opportunity of gaming there has been a growing concern that it can't sustain us forever. In the future our businesses need to be diverse and numerous.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has come through the rigors of a tumultuous history that has no doubt set us on a path no one could have predicted. From first contact, to our culture and daily lives being altered as a result of the settlement of the West, to the boarding-school era and assimilation on through to when the Leech Lake Band's Members took back the direction of our future in contemporary history through self-determination: We have met incredible challenges in the face of insurmountable social undercurrents that could have completely defeated us. They did not. We have faced every obstacle and have come through to the other side. We have found success where there had seemingly been none to speak of. The Leech Lake Band now looks to the future with not only hope, but with aspirations that will have us reaching for the stars through our vision of the future that our ancestors can be proud of.





## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN CARRI JONES

A niin and greetings to all Band members and friends of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

I write this letter with experience the Reservation Business Committee has gained from our yearly progress along with excitement for the years to come! This year's theme for State of the Band Address 2015 is Past, Present and Future. We hope this Annual Report informs our Band members of the tremendous progress we have made on behalf of our constituents in recent years.

In recent years, Band members have witnessed an increase of new infrastructure popping up throughout our Reservation boundaries. As you read this report, construction continues on brand new facilities including our LLBO Government Building, Cass Lake Indian Health Services expansion, Lyman "DeDe" Losh Transitional Home in Bena, new Men's Halfway House addition, Opioid Treatment Program, Elder Assisted Care Living Facility and the Regional Justice Center. As reiterated in Band member updates mailed out, we continue lobbying efforts to build a badly-needed Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school. We thank the State and Federal Minnesota delegation for their continued support on this huge endeavor.

The Reservation Business Committee does not neglect smaller community infrastructure as the Mission Community Center was completed last year along with both Onigum and S. Lake communities set to build new community centers in the year to come. Along with the new Diabetes Fitness Center expansion, Onigum has received a new fishing pier and four communities have received new playgrounds – all projects a result of hardwork from our various divisions and LLBO employees.

Not only has your leadership focused on building new infrastructure, large and small, the Reservation Business Committee has also worked on strengthening our community partnerships and collaboration. One recent example includes Leech Lake's trip to Washington D.C. with Cass County staff to lobby for increased Roads funding. Leech Lake is tied to projects with all our surrounding counties and without their dedication, we could not complete so many projects and ideas! Community collaboration and open communication is the key to Leech Lake and our various partnerships' successes.

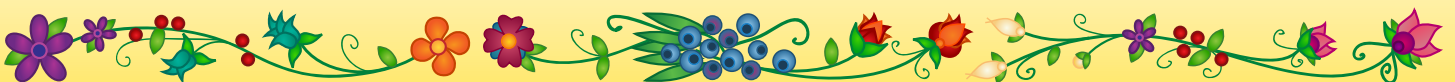
As your elected leadership, we thank you for your support as we continue growing, expanding and strengthening partnerships and various projects in 2015 and beyond.

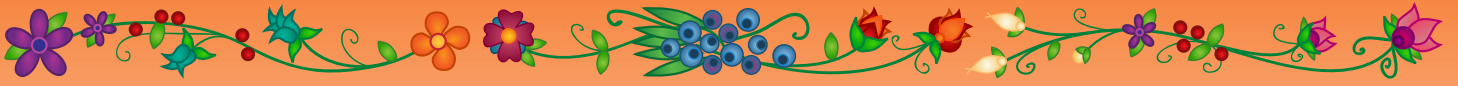
Chi'Miigwech,

Carri Jones  
Tribal Chair  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



**Chairwoman**  
*Carri Jones*





# LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL COUNCIL



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
*Arthur LaRose*



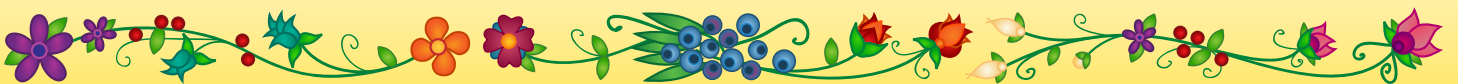
**District I Representative**  
*Penny DeVault*

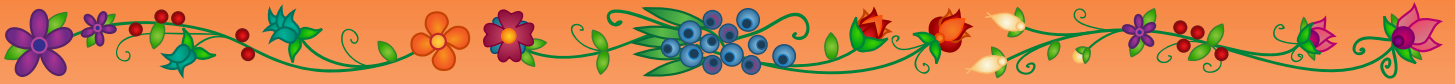


**District II Representative**  
*Steve White*



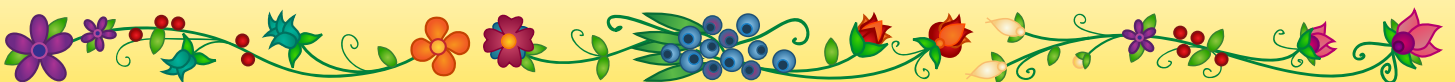
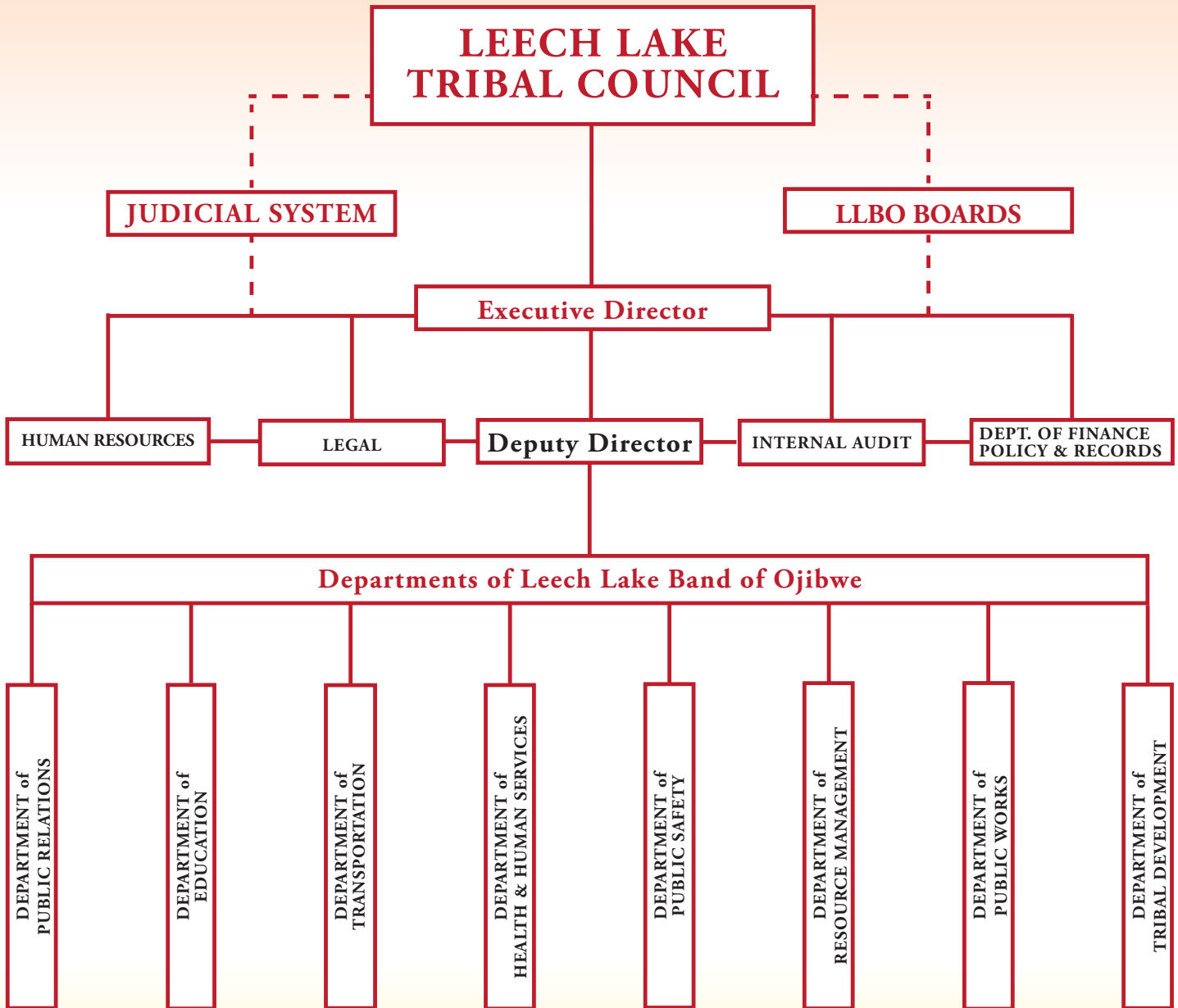
**District III Representative**  
*LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III*



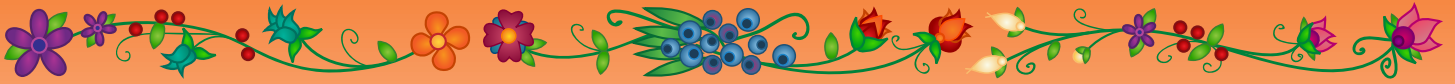


# LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

*Identify common goals and succeed through unification*





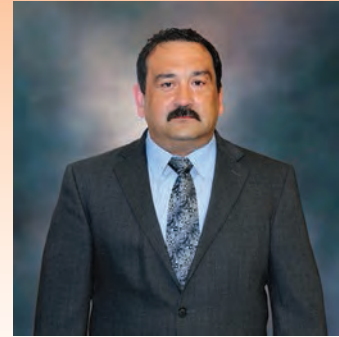


# TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTED TO THE RESPONSIBLE OPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
*Pete White*



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
*Steven Howard*



**TRIBAL COURT CHIEF JUDGE**  
*Paul Day*

**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
*Sarah Jones*

**LEGAL DEPARTMENT**  
*Laura Vedder*

**INTERNAL AUDIT**  
*Rebecca Chase*

**FINANCE, POLICY & RECORDS**  
*Burt Howard*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
*Ryan White*

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
*Lee Turney*

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
*Art Chase*

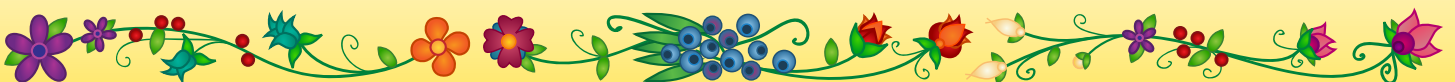
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
*Lenore Barsness*

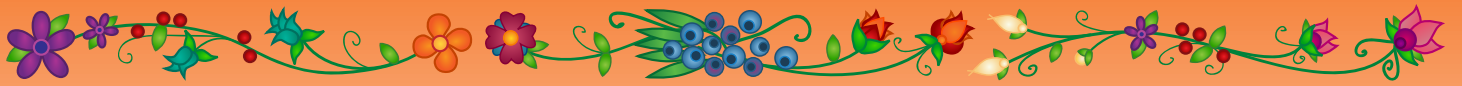
**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ken Washington*

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
*Richard Robinson JR.*

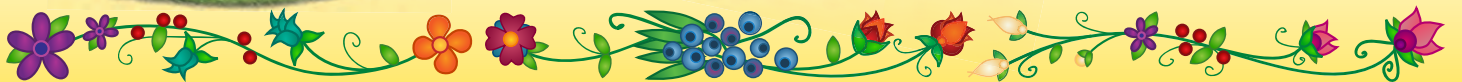
**PUBLIC WORKS**  
*Vernon Lyons*

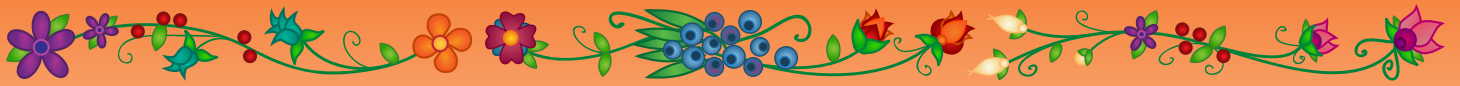
**PLANNING /DEVELOPMENT**  
*Richard Jones*



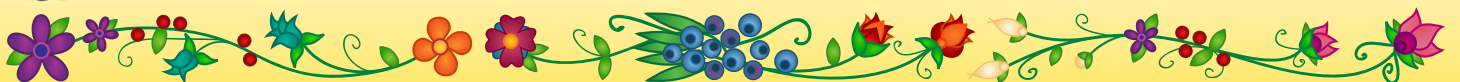


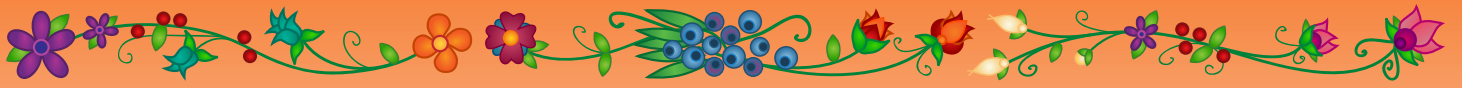
# PRESERVATION



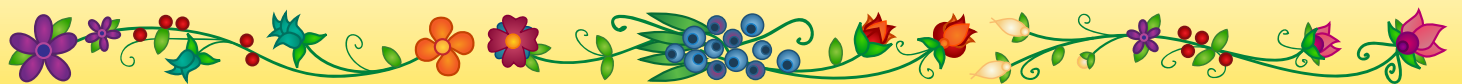


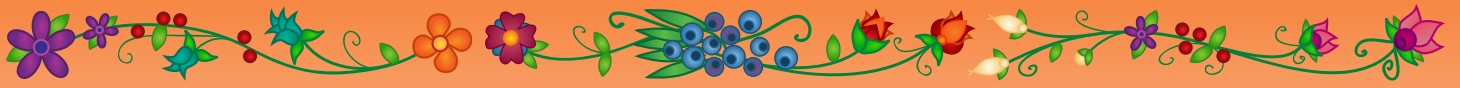
# OF OUR HERITAGE



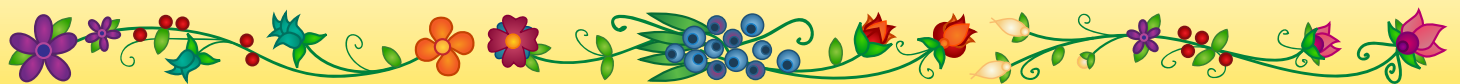


# PRESERVATION





# OF OUR HERITAGE



# PAST YEARS

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & EFFORTS

For the past four years, the currently elected Reservation Business Committee has strived to revitalize and strengthen community partnerships and collaboration. The Band has increased our partnerships with a variety of surrounding counties, non-profits, and State and Federal networks.

### **I.H.S. CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS SETTLEMENT**

From 2006 to 2011, the Band incurred unpaid contract support costs with the Indian Health Services. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the United States Government must pay contracts in full so long as funds are available when the U.S. Government enters into a contract with a tribe for services. In 2012, the Band filed a contract support costs claim with I.H.S. for unpaid costs. The RBC and I.H.S. negotiated a settlement amount and in October 2014, the RBC approved a resolution to collect \$1,554,118 in a settlement with I.H.S.

### **CASS COUNTY SERVICES NOW OFFERED IN GOVERNMENT BUILDING**

As a result of an M.O.U. between Leech Lake and Cass County dedicated towards improved communication and consultation, Cass County now provides office hours Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The eligibility workers opened their offices in the Cass Lake Government Center in June 2014. The Cass County offices are located on the first floor of the new Government Building. The Cass County staff are eligibility workers and provide assistance with SNAP, healthcare, emergency assistance and other services for Band members. Band members no longer have to travel to Walker to receive these services.

### **CASS COUNTY M.O.U.**

Leech Lake and the Cass County Board of Commissioners signed a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) at the first collaborative meeting held between the two parties in over 3 years. The M.O. U. was originally signed back in Winter 2012 and renewed recently in Spring 2015. The M.O.U. emphasizes both parties' cooperation towards improved communication, on-going mutual consultation, and agreement to uphold an effective, respectful working relationship. This M.O.U. underscores the Band's goal of building strong relationships with the surrounding local communities. The five year M.O.U. provides a framework for cooperation on many important issues regarding natural resource management and community and economic development in order to maintain Ojibwe cultural ways. As a direct result of this M.O.U., Cass County has 3 county employees stationed at the Government Building to provide services locally.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## FLAG RAISING AT ITASCA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's flag was raised at the Itasca County Courthouse and Grand Rapids Chamber Depot as a symbol of the Band's and County's partnership in September 2013. "Flags are the things that really stand out in people's minds and are recognizable by everybody. And so the flag is the tool that we use to say hey, this land is your land as well as ours," remarked Bud Stone, President of Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Tribal Chair Carri Jones presented the flag to Leech Lake Veteran's Guard and American Legion Post No. 60 honor guards to raise.

Leech Lake and Red Lake Bands are currently collaborating on a future event to raise each Band's flags at the Beltrami County Courthouse in Bemidji in the near future.

## LLBO & CNF M.O.U. PARTNERSHIP

The Chippewa National Forest awarded Leech Lake with a partnership award. As mentioned in previous newsletters, Leech Lake RBC signed a collaborative M.O.U. with Chippewa National Forest in June 2013. This M.O.U. outlined the processes for consultation and communication between Leech Lake and the C.N.F. The partnership award showcases the Band's continuing effort towards building a cooperative and productive working relationship with our surrounding community entities. Leech Lake and C.N.F. work closely on many community events and the 2014 National U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree projects.



# PAST YEARS

## LLBO DIVISIONS

### ANOKII-DAA TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (T.E.P.)

The Temporary Employment Program selects a limited number of Band members each day and assigns them with a daily work schedule. In 2014, T.E.P. assisted with employment to over 1,100 people, the burial process of 55 people, delivered over 800 cords of wood to elders and raked and moved various elder lawns throughout the year.

### EDUCATION

Each year the Education division supports Band members in obtaining their post-secondary degrees from bachelor's to doctorate's programs. In the past years, Education awarded the following numbers of financial aid:

- 237 Band members received aid in 2015
- 740 Band members received aid in 2013-2015

### JOHNSON O'MALLEY (J.O.M.)

Johnson O'Malley is a federally-funded program providing education programs for Native American public school students.

- JOM programs reached 1,884 eligible students in 2015
- 1783 students in 2014
- 1,826 students in 2013

### SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Summer Youth program places high school students in various LLBO divisions for summer employment. The number of youth working fluctuates each year depending on available funding.

- 40 youth hired in 2015
- 224 Youth was hired from 2012-2015

### HEALTH

The greater Leech Lake population applying for and receiving Health division services and resources has increased from 10,296 people in 2010 to 10,770 individuals in 2014. This number includes members from other federal recognized Tribes including Leech Lake. The primary eligibility requirement to receive Health services is being a member of a federally recognized Tribe. The Health division and programs strives to meet and exceed Band members with our services, outreach and resources.

- Community Clinics received approximately 4,971 people in surrounding communities in 2014
- Home Health Care served 1,859 clients and visits with in-home nursing services in 2014
- Non-emergency transportation provided 3,489 people with assistance to medical appointments in 2014





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Elder Nutrition Program served 254 people in 2013 and 271 people in 2014
- Nutritional Supplement and Diet Program provided 35 people with nutritional supplements in 2013 and 36 people in 2014. Overall, 265 people received nutritional therapy in 2013 and 222 people in 2014

## LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE

Leech Lake Tribal College was founded and created in 1990 by Tribal Resolution and has grown into a regional leader in higher education. Along with yearly classes and community workshops, the Tribal College has accomplished the following:

- Fall Semester retention rate increased from 31% two years ago to 54% today
- Established men's and women's basketball teams competing in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III and Northern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
- Launched new Forest Resources Degree program. Allows students to customize their educational background to fit future four year STEM major of choice (science and math)

## TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICES

The T.E.R.O. program enforces tribally enacted Indian Preference law which insures Native American people gain their rightful share to employment, training, contracting, subcontracting and business opportunities on or near the Reservation or villages.

- 20 Band members were dispatched in 2014 to various job positions on or near Reservation boundaries.
- Current figures show 36 Band members dispatches to various projects in 2015.
- Each of the following projects was staffed by T.E.R.O. referrals in recent years:
- L.L. Tribal College Library Addition and Men's Half Way House completed by Frontier Construction
- Mission Community Center Completed by Ver Con Inc.
- DRM and Fleet Management parking lots paved, Boy River bridge, Chief Boyd Road resurface, and Roads division garage and parking lot paved by Tri City Paving

## LEECH LAKE HOUSING AUTHORITY

- In the recent past, Housing Authority completed the 7th Low Income Housing Tax Credit development at Norway Heights, Wolf Lake and Townline which provided an additional 25 housing rental units.
- Completed a 15 unit homeownership development in Ball Club.
- Recipient of a capacity building grant from Enterprise Community Partners that funded a critical needs assessment of the District 1 portfolio which led to an application to Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for extensive remodel and renovation funds for those homes.



# PAST YEARS

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### BOY RIVER BRIDGE

Concerned for pedestrian safety, District II Representative Steve White worked with various community partners including Cass County, LLBO Tribal Roads and elected officials to construct a new Boy River Bridge. All parties mentioned above lobbied multiple sources to secure funding for construction. The improved bridge includes a ten foot sidewalk on the east side of the bridge, a five foot sidewalk on the west side and space for parking. Cement barriers have been constructed on the bridge itself to allow for safer fishing. As mentioned in the DRM section of this report, the Band continues efforts to construct a similar bridge in the Federal Dam community.



### DULUTH OFFICE OPENS

A satellite office in the city of Duluth opened in 2013 to offer resources and assistance to Band member residents. The Tribal Chair's office and Special Events staff held a Welcoming Spring Feast in June 2015 with flower pot painting, meal, and raffles. Band members are welcome to stop by the office at the American Indian Community Housing Building at 202 W 2nd Street, Duluth, MN. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8am to noon. Duluth LIC is currently working on establishing a bigger presence amongst Band members residing in the Duluth area. The Band hopes to help Duluth Band members gain better access to Tribal resources.

### BUILDING OF GOVERNMENT CENTER

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe opened a brand new Government Administration Building in Winter 2013 in Cass Lake. The U.S.D.A. was instrumental in obtaining grants and funding to build the new Government Center. The Band would not have a safe building to run governmental duties without this sort of community collaboration. The Government Building houses many LLBO staff from essential administrative divisions such as RBC members and assistants, special events, public relations, Debahjimon newspaper, Legal Department, purchasing, and three Cass County offices to provide assistance.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## MISSION CENTER

A brand new Community Center opened in August 2014 in the Mission Community of Cass Lake, District III. The new 4,800 square foot community center increased the amount of space for Band members to gather for events. The center includes a gymnasium, office space and full kitchen available for use. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Indian Community Development Block Grant supplied some of the funding used for construction.

## COMMUNITY PLAYGROUNDS

The Band and Tribal Planning division secured funding to build four new playgrounds in Jackson Village, Kego Lake, Oak Point and Mission Communities. All four playgrounds were installed and open to the community last July 2014.



# NEW COMMUNITY

## BENA BIKE TRAIL

Concerned for pedestrian safety along Highway 2, District II has been coordinating with various LLBO divisions to have a paved Bena Bike Trail in their community

### Phase I

- Set to begin in July 2015 and end Fall 2015
- Funds have been secured at \$220,000 to begin construction
- Construction will begin from Old Housing Road to Big Winnie Store

### Phase II

- Extend trail from Old Housing Road to Big Fish Restaurant
- Will be completed by 2017

## GENERAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Four District I communities will receive \$50,000 each for various projects identified by LICs
- Winnie Dam, Deer River, Ball Club & Inger identified community projects such as constructing basketball courts, more street lights, picnic pavilions and community education classes
- Onigum and S. Lake communities are currently in the planning and construction phases to build new community centers as current building are in dire need of replacement
- S. Lake will be constructing a new community center near the new powwow grounds

## IHS EXPANSION

The Cass Lake Indian Health Service started their two year renovation and expansion construction project in May 2014. The I.H.S. renovation and expansion construction will add almost 28,000 feet and remodel 8,500 feet of space. Much of the interior of the current building will be updated, electrical and ventilation systems will be upgraded, and the roof will be replaced. The number of patient care rooms will be doubled and spaces for pharmacy, laboratory and physical therapy will be increased. Construction and renovations are ahead of schedule and expected to be completed by Fall 2016.

## DIABETES FITNESS CENTER

The new Fitness Center was completed in July 2015 housing a weight lifting room, a separate cardio room, a workout studio offering various classes, and a diabetes education/meeting room. The Fitness Center also purchased new weight lifting and cardio equipment. The tribal occupational therapist and tribal chiropractor will be able to work 2 days a week in the additional office space expansion in the new building. With a new layout and roomier feel, the new Fitness Center will attract and keep more clients coming in and coming back! The Band encourages physical activity and healthier lifestyles for our employees by offering fitness time to use during their work days.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

## LYMAN “DEDE” LOSH TRANSITIONAL HOME OPENING

The new homeless shelter held their grand opening in May 2015. The Band has created a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness through collaborative partnerships to develop new financial and housing resources to generate additional housing units and services from emergency shelter to permanent supportive housing to affordable home ownership. Public Works’ Community Services program and Day Labor programs worked for several months on remodeling the 3,400 homeless facility; which houses up to 30 residents with one handicapped accessible unit.



## LEO JORDON ONIGUM PIER DEDICATION

In June 2015, Leech Lake DRM assembled and dedicated a fishing pier in Onigum to community member Leo Jordon. Cass County donated the pier at no-charge to Leech Lake to use at our own will. Fourth district Cass County Commissioner Scott Bruns attended the official Pier Dedication Ceremony remarking he is impressed by the relationship the Band and Cass County has successfully built in recent years.

Leo Jordon served as a valuable Leech Lake employee for over 20 years with the DRM, serving as a Conservation Field Officer, Fields Operations Supervisor and Chief Conservation Officer. Leo was one of the first Native American Cass County Deputy Sheriffs in 1972. Leo served as a role model to many Conservation Enforcement staff during his time spent with the Band.

Youth Division coordinated their Take-a-Youth-Fishing Day in conjunction with the Pier Opening. Youth and the Onigum community enjoyed a sunny day fishing, boat rides and canoeing from the new pier along with raffles and meal.



# COMMUNITY



## BEMIJIGAMAAG POWWOW HOSTED AT THE SANFORD CENTER

The Sanford Center in Bemidji hosted its first annual Powwow on April 4th, 2015. The free one day powwow event hosted two grand entries, a community feast, and vendors. Governor Dayton observed the first grand entry and greeted the crowd. Tribal Chairs from Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth and local officials led the grand entry procession at the beginning of the powwow. Bemidji Mayor Rita Albrecht, a former employee of Leech Lake, received a Leech Lake flag to fly at the Sanford Center. In return, Mayor Albrecht offered Tribal leadership tobacco and blankets as a symbol of our continued community partnerships and recognition.



## CASS COUNTY SERVICES OFFERED IN GOVERNMENT BUILDING

Cass County placed two eligibility workers in the LLBO Government Center last year as a result of an M.O.U. between Leech Lake and Cass County dedicated towards improved communication and consultation. Cass County has made the decision to place an additional eligibility worker in the LLBO Government Center due to the high amount of clients they serve in Cass Lake. A total of three eligibility workers serving Band members and others at the

# COLLABORATION

LLBO Government showcases successful and progressive collaboration between a tribal nation and county government. Cass County has become an increasingly strong partner with the Band and we thank them for their collaboration with us!

## CIRCLE OF TIME COMMITTEE & SHAYNOWISHKUNG COMMITTEE STATUES

The Circle of Time Committee has been working on constructing new statues in the Walker community. The Circle of Time Committee reached out to Tribal Chair Jones to seek the Band's input and comments on their statue work. Steven Day has been serving as the Leech Lake representative on the committee. The Band has agreed to cater the meal for the statue grand opening held this August in Walker, MN. The first statue to be erected is of Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig.

The dedication of the new Shaynowishkung statue(Chief Bemidji) took place on June 6, 2015. Eight Leech Lake Band members served on the statue committee. LLTC Instructor Elaine Fleming provided historical research and writing for the descriptions for the informational plaques at the statue site, and also gave the keynote address on Shaynowishkung and the time period in which he lived. Leech Lake RBC donated \$5000, making our Band one of eight Leadership Partners in the project. Gaming donated the feast and 300 walleye filets while Leech Lake Honor Guard presented the colors at the dedication.

The Band is delighted committees such as Circle of Time or Chief Bemidji are making an effort to connect with us and hear our comments. The collaboration is greatly appreciated!



## COLLABORATIVE E.P.A. CONSULTATION – ST. REGIS SUPERFUND SITE

The RBC leadership hosted a consultation meeting with Environmental Protection Agency staff on June 24th, 2015. The meeting goals included opening communication between our two parties as well as agree upon mutual goals concerning the St. Regis Superfund Site as we move forward with clean-up and accountability. The Band and E.P.A. met to discuss our concerns for clean-up standards and the E.P.A.'s failure to uphold our treaty rights. The Band intends to work with the E.P.A. to get the St. Regis Superfund Site cleaned up to the Band's standards instead of the E.P.A.'s standards. The E.P.A. originally proposed cleaning the site's soil until it is hospitable for industrial use. The Band will work towards a higher standard of clean-up so the area is hospitable for residential use in the future. As a result of the meeting, E.P.A. has agreed to research with our input and we will hold a conference call within the next two weeks. The RBC will continue holding these meetings with community partners to accomplish the Band's priorities concerning our important natural resources.



## MCT TEC APPROVES RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING CHIPPEWA BLOOD QUANTUM

The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) held a meeting on April 2nd, 2015 passing Resolution 31-15-Include First Nation Anishinaabe blood and Resolution 32-15-Include federally recognized Anishinaabe/Ojibwe/Chippewa blood. The resolutions state that the current membership provision is too restrictive because it does not permit other Chippewa (Ojibwe) blood. The MCT tribes have considered this topic in-depth and have found many Minnesota Chippewa possess varying degrees of other Chippewa blood and that blood should not be excluded when determining tribal eligibility.

The resolution states adult members must be currently enrolled with an MCT tribe and should be able to cast a ballot on whether other Chippewa blood and Canadian First Nations blood should be counted towards membership.

The next steps include presenting these resolutions in front of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior will hold a special Secretarial Election concerning this proposed change. Leech Lake and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will provide additional information on election days as more details are announced.

## NEW ABSENTEE VOTING LOCATIONS IN CASS AND ITASCA COUNTIES

In order to increase ballot access and easier voting for our Band members, the Tribal Chair's office and Government Relations collaborated with non-profit Four Directions, Cass County and Itasca County to open voting locations in Cass Lake and Ball Club communities for the first time. The collaboration between Leech Lake and Itasca County Auditor-Treasurer Jeffrey Walker and Cass County Auditor-Treasurer Sharon Anderson to increase Band member access to voting illustrates that relationship building with our neighbors creates positive results for Band members and our Leech Lake community.





## CASS COUNTY LOCATION AT LLBO GOV'T BUILDING

While the first 30 days of the 46 day period open for voting was slow, the last 15 days before Election Day saw a voter turn-out increase. The total number of voters served for the entire 46 days compared favorably with four other long established voting locations. In 2014, the LLBO voting location served a total of 59 voters for the first year (in comparison, Sytan location served 58 and Pillager City Hall location served 46). Numbers indicate the LLBO location was very successful!

## ITASCA COUNTY LOCATION AT BALL CLUB COMMUNITY CENTER

Itasca County voters receive their ballots through the mail. The Ball Club location received 25 current registered voters, 11 new registered voters from Ball Club alone and 7 from other areas. Mail-in ballot voters, registered voters, and non-registered voters (Band members or non-Band members) were encouraged to cast their State and Federal election ballots in the weeks before and on Election Day on Tuesday November 4th.

## COLLABORATIVE MEETING WITH FOUNDATION PARTNERS

In February 2015 the Leech Lake RBC met with the Blandin Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation, and the Initiative Foundation in St. Paul. The meeting was held between the four organizations in order to identify common areas of interest within the partnership, understand what has been accomplished and what remains, and identify next steps, partner responsibilities and commitments going forward. The three organizations offer many resources for the Band to utilize as Leech Lake has many issues unique to our community and people. We look forward to continuing communication and collaboration with Blandin, Northwest Area and the Initiative Foundation in the future on Leech Lake projects and concerns.

## TRIBAL ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Tribal Chair Carri Jones' office hosts the Tribal Administrative Internship Program each summer for 2 recent high school graduates. Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig, Deer River and Cass Lake-Bena schools sent in applications for internship positions. Interns earned college credit from the Leech Lake Tribal College along with shadowing employees at various LLBO divisions and learning about how the RBC processes internally. Summer 2015 interns were Vincent Robinson and Adriana Wright, both of Cass Lake-Bena High School. Vincent and Adriana spent time at I.H.S. and the health division as both are interested in the health/medical field. Instructor Elaine Fleming taught a mini-course on Indigenous Leadership, instilling the importance of learning the Leech Lake Anishinaabe history and culture which is largely ignored in mainstream public education. Vincent will be attending Haskell Indian Nations University and Adriana will be attending Leech Lake Tribal College in the Fall.



# COMMUNITY



## KIDS PERCH JERK 2015

Perch Jerk was held on March 7, 2015 on Lake Winnibigosh. It was the second largest turnout in recent years and over 700 kids and 300+ adults registered to fish, eat and win trophies and raffles.

## REGALIA MAKING WORKSHOPS

District I and II held regalia making workshops with community members using grant funds from Blandin Foundation and Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. Participants were required to be adults making regalia for youth family members. Participants had to be first time sewers with no experience. Approximately 50 participants participated in workshops held in S. Lake, Inger, Winnie Dam, Ball Club, Kego Lake, Smokey Point and Bena communities (outfits pictured below are from the bena area).

Duluth LIC is working with the Tribal Chair's Office to hold regalia making workshops in the fall. The Duluth workshop will be partially funded by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tax Commission. The regalia making workshop meets the Tax Commission Donation Request Policy as the nature of the request shows benefit to the Leech Lake Reservation, its programs and members.



# EVENTS

## SPRING TREE GIVEAWAY

The tree giveaway was hosted by DRM, Tribal Chair's Office and Special Events in May 2015. Community members were welcomed to pick from a variety of tree or shrub seedlings to take home and plant. Activities for the children consisted of painting flower pots for the children to take home. The Leech Lake Events staff provided a picnic style lunch which included hot dogs and hamburgers with a variety of side dishes.



## SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY EVENTS AND BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

The Band held Family Fun Day Events in Cass Lake, Winnie Dam and Sugar Point communities in summer 2014. Over 1,500 backpacks filled with schools supplies were given out to Band members. Along with the backpack giveaway, bouncy houses, face painting and crafts were available to the children. A picnic served included hot dogs, chips, and other goodies. This summer 2015 Duluth will host their Family Fun Day and Backpack Giveaway on August 22, District I on August 24, District II on August 26, and District III on August 28.



## TAKE-A-KID FISHING 2015

- A variety of LLBO divisions and Boys and Girls Club took children fishing on Cass Lake in the beginning of June 2015
- Over 204 kids fished and went on boat rides





## TREATS FOR TOTS HALLOWEEN

On Halloween Northern Lights, the Palace and White Oak Casinos hosted trick-or-treating for the children. Over 1,700 kids participated at the Northern Lights, 1,500 kids at White Oak, and 1,200 kids at the Palace showed up at the event for games and candy.

## TAKE-AN-ELDER FISHING 2015

- LLBO divisions and Elder Advocates hosted their first annual Take-An-Elder fishing event on July 8, 2015
- Approximately 80 elders fished and enjoyed boat rides and food on; Cass Lake

## TOYS FOR TOTS CHRISTMAS

On Friday December 1, 2014 the Band held their annual Toys for Tots for Band member families. Over 3,000 toys were distributed across the three districts to be given away for children. District I held their site in Ball Club, District II in Bena and District III in Cass Lake.





## WHY TREATIES MATTER EXHIBIT AT THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The Public Relations division coordinated the traveling Why Treaties Matter Exhibit to be at the Northern Lights from June 8, 2015 until August 28, 2015. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Spiritual Advisor Larry Aitken opened the event with Land Director Levi Brown and LLTC Instructor Elaine Fleming speaking on the importance of this exhibit. Treaties are important because treaty making acknowledges our nationhood. Nations have a legal and moral right to make decisions about our resources, their citizenship, economy, and governance. We are peoples of nations. Therefore, we must understand our treaty rights and history to become a stronger nation for our Band members.



# 2015 U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE

The Reservation Business Committee and other government employees from Leech Lake traveled to Washington D.C. to celebrate the lighting of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. The Band worked diligently for months prior to the lighting to prepare community events and fundraisers to bring children and elders out to the Capitol. Synergetic Endeavors helped the Band raise enough funds to cover the costs of transportation, food, and hotel stays for 132 children and 30 elders. Students were able to experience the Capitol for themselves, tour the Smithsonian museums and various national monuments. Students from their school's drum and dance groups were able to exhibit their dancing and singing talents at the U.S.D.A. Chief of Forest Reception and held a three hour Drum and Dance exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian.

The Reservation Business Committee held meetings with members of the Minnesota delegation including Betty McCollum and Rick Nolan, National Taxpayer Advocates, and Pennsylvania Congressman John Kline who serves as the Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. Leech Lake staff also attended various Capitol Christmas Tree Receptions throughout D.C. to spread the message of Leech Lake's contribution to this national event. In early June 2015, Chippewa National Forest and Leech Lake RBC members joined Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students and staff in re-planting three new trees to replace the white pine that was brought to the Capitol.







# FINANCE, POLICY, & RECORDS

# PRESENT FY 2015 FINANCE UPDATES

## FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

Financial Condition of the Band as follows:

### Revenue and Expenses

The Band is continually seeking additional revenues from all sources to supplement the existing programs, functions and services that are aimed at improving and sustaining the livelihood of our citizens.

The Band is constantly striving to become more efficient and effective in its management of operations that deliver programs and services to its constituents.

To provide accountability and transparency, the Band held public budget meetings in each of its districts seeking input and comments to further enhance the effectiveness of those programs and services and will continue to hold public meetings on an annual basis.

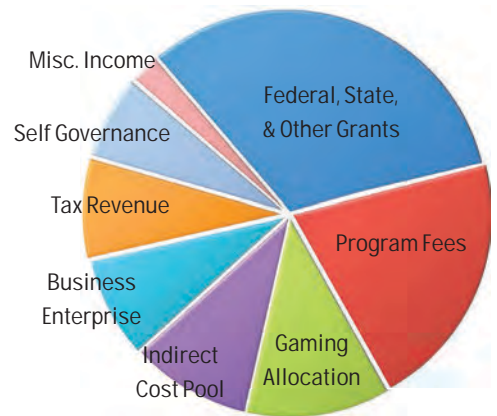
The Band is a major contributor to the local economy by providing over 2,500 full-time, part-time, and temporary Government and gaming employment opportunities. The Band's operational budgets purchases goods and services from mostly local vendors that further stimulate the local economy. The Band is partnering with local governments, hospitals, and other entities to further become more effective and efficient in our continued efforts to assist its constituents in their own efforts to become self-sufficient.

### The Band's General and Special Revenue Fund Annual budgets are comprised of:

Grant Revenues	= \$ 40 million
Third Party Billing	= \$ 20 million
Gaming Proceeds	= \$ 13 million
Tax/license Revenues	= \$ 6 million
Misc. (land leasing, etc)	= \$ 1 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>= \$ 80 million</b>

## REVENUE FY 2015

Federal, State, & Other Grants	\$34,781,613
Program Fees	\$22,356,066
Gaming Allocation	\$12,516,846
Indirect Cost Pool	\$10,413,555
Business Enterprise	\$8,742,259
Tax Revenue	\$8,601,068
Self Governance	\$7,250,506
Misc. Income	\$2,424,984
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$107,086,898</b>



Based on our most recent Audit by McGladrey, LLP, the Band's Balance Sheet consisted of:

Total Assets - <i>consisting of Capital assets, cash or other investments, and other receivables</i>	= \$170 million
Total Long-term Debt & other liabilities	= \$ 70 million
Net Position/Net Equity	= \$100 million

These amounts represent combining Balance Sheets from the Band's Governmental, Gaming & other Enterprises,

including the Che-we Convenience Store and Northernlights.

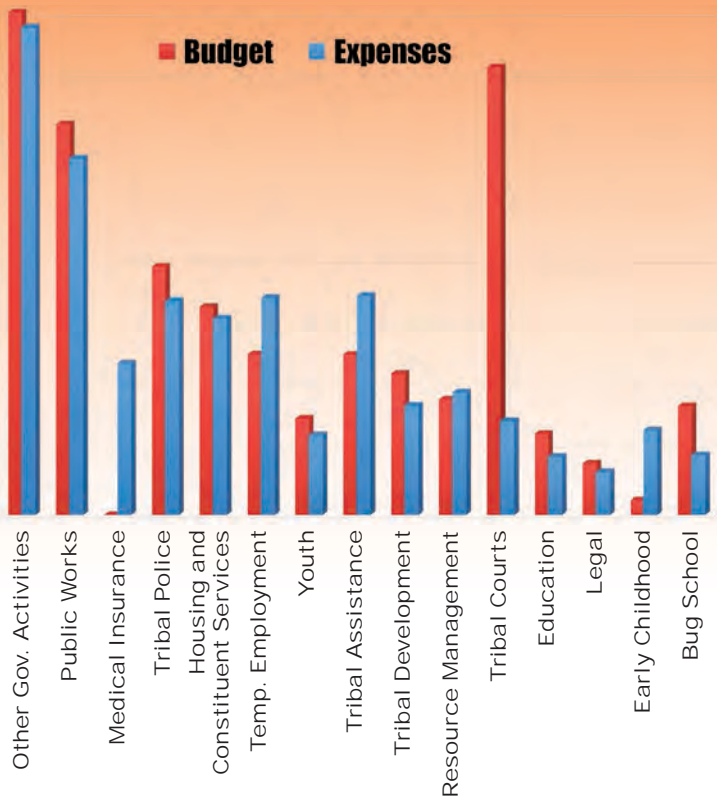
In 2012, the Band established its first Minor's Trust Fund with an initial investment of \$200 per child consisting of 1800+ citizens under the age of 18.

Trust Fund Assets consisting of investments & interest	= \$1,448,000
Less payouts to children reaching 18 years of age	= -\$112,700
<b>Net Trust Fund Value</b>	<b>= \$1,335,300</b>



# GENERAL FUND FY 2015

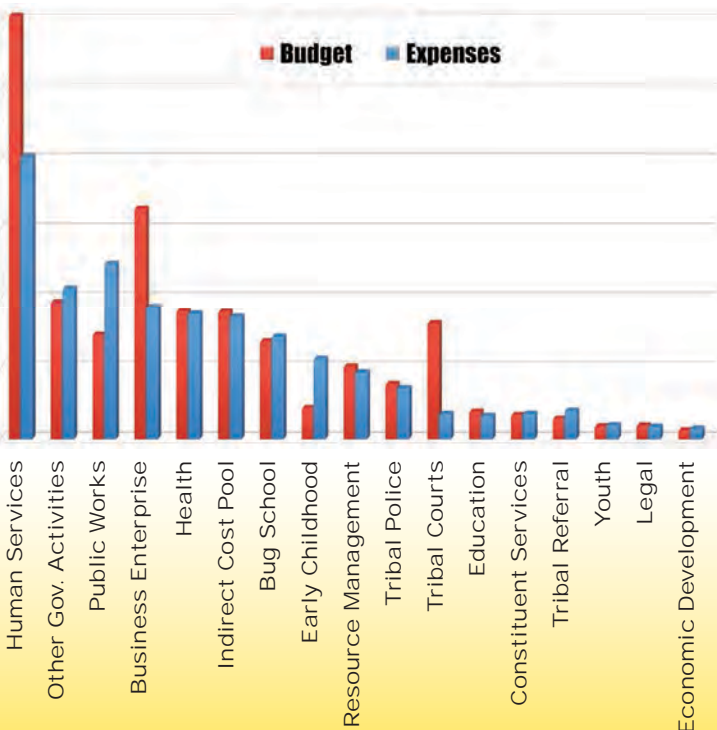
General Funds are direct funding allocated to programs, these amounts do not include grant dollars.



	BUDGET	EXPENSES
Other Gov. Activities	\$4,080,673	\$3,960,113
Public Works	\$3,171,643	\$2,893,359
Medical Insurance	\$0	\$1,235,000
Tribal Police	\$2,016,039	\$1,738,374
Housing & Constituent Serv.	\$1,691,479	\$1,597,485
Temp. Employment	\$1,306,248	\$1,764,182
Youth	\$784,689	\$648,808
Tribal Assistance	\$1,304,305	\$1,782,953
Tribal Development	\$1,149,862	\$891,106
Resource Management	\$939,722	\$997,331
Tribal Courts	\$3,634,123	\$766,405
Education	\$661,148	\$474,403
Legal	\$420,176	\$350,129
Early Childhood	\$119,366	\$690,403
Bug School	\$886,609	\$487,195
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$22,166,082</b>	<b>\$20,277,248</b>

# EXPENDITURES V. BUDGET FY 2015

Expenditures is the total amount of all General Fund and grant funds that were spent throughout the fiscal year.



	BUDGET	EXPENSES
Human Services	\$30,382,777	\$20,243,758
Other Gov. Activities	\$9,805,694	\$10,803,155
Public Works	\$7,427,311	\$12,602,742
Business Enterprise	\$16,561,352	\$9,448,411
Health	\$9,115,725	\$8,918,762
Indirect Cost Pool	\$9,047,749	\$8,705,103
Bug School	\$6,937,187	\$7,277,111
Early Childhood	\$2,201,672	\$5,707,608
Resource Management	\$5,151,057	\$4,738,005
Tribal Police	\$3,912,145	\$3,625,829
Tribal Courts	\$8,214,582	\$1,780,950
Education	\$1,942,655	\$1,650,530
Constituent Services	\$1,706,479	\$1,798,749
Tribal Referral	\$1,463,890	\$2,005,510
Youth	\$902,886	\$979,416
Legal	\$961,965	\$880,484
Economic Development	\$632,742	\$749,074
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$116,367,868</b>	<b>\$101,915,197</b>

# PRESENT FY 2015 LEECH LAKE FINANCIAL SERVICES UPDATES

## LEECH LAKE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

If you are interested in applying for small business loans or financial or budget training, please contact Leech Lake Financial Services at 218-339-3940 or stop by our offices on Second Street in Cass Lake.

**Since the creation of Leech Lake Financial Services began in 2012, the program has:**

- Became a separate LLBO subsidiary, 501C3 non-profit Tribal Corporation under the LLBO Tribal Court Code.
- Provided Financial Education for 358 individuals.
- Went from 44 active loan clients to 364 active loan clients, an increase of 743%.

### **Updates for 2015:**

- Started Commercial Lending making 5 loans to small businesses on the reservation since starting the new program on June 15, 2015.
- Began reporting credit on loans to the Credit Bureaus.
- Expanded from 2 Full-Time staff to 3 Full-Time staff.

### **Future Goals:**

- CDFI certification pending in autumn of 2015.
- Expand services that require the addition of 2 additional FT staff.
- Build adequate and profitable workspace for LLFS and other businesses in the City of Cass Lake.



# PRESENT FY 2015 EDUCATION UPDATES

## EDUCATION DIVISION

### Johnson O'Malley

- Johnson O'Malley (JOM) is a federally-funded program which provides supplemental education programs for Native American students attending public school. Each school spends their allocations differently based on their own set of bylaws.
- This year the Band has submitted a new student count to the Federal government in hopes of increased funding.
- The Band receives and distributes allocations for 1,884 students to 8 schools near the Leech Lake Reservation including Bemidji, Blackduck, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig, Cass Lake-Bena, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Remer-Longville and Walker-Akeley-Hackensack along with funding to headstarts.

### Post-Secondary Scholarships

- 237 Band members received financial aid for Post-Secondary schooling
- The Band supplemented Education with direct funding to decrease the waiting list each year

### 25th Annual Career Fair

- Education division hosted their annual Career Fair at the Northern Lights Convention Center with 54 booths and 124 registered students attending. Students came from Cass Lake-Bena, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig, Grand Rapids, Kelliher, Red Lake, Remer and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley. Over 54 booths provided educational and career information. Evaluations collected from students and booth indicate the Education Division is continuing

to fulfill the goal of spreading educational and career resources to our youth.



EDUCATION

# PRESENT FY 2015 EDUCATION UPDATES

## Summer Youth Program 2015

- The Summer Youth Programs employed and placed approximately 40 youth. The youth work in an area of their interest, in their respective communities, and learn job skills to better enable their success in the future.

## WIA Program 2015

- The Education division assisted 17 participants with work experience in LLBO divisions. Five Band members participated in the GED bonus program. Participants received a \$150 monetary incentive as a bonus for successfully completing their GED tests.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

### CONTINUING HIGHER EDUCATION

Enrolled 3 team leaders in Bachelors Program at Southwest MN State University through a partnership with Leech Lake Tribal College. An articulation agreement was signed allowing students graduating from the Tribal College to continue their education via an online program and complete their 4 year degree.

### New Special Education Certification

Our program developed trainings for Early Childhood Special Education Certification in partnership with Center for Inclusive Child Care. The certification provides staff with background on Early Childhood Special Education Laws and best practices while working with children that have a diagnosed developmental delay or special need. Two ECD employees are currently trained with plans to train more individuals in the coming year.

### CULTURAL TRAINERS AND TRAININGS

A cultural Trainer/Training guidebook was approved by MN Department of Human Services and is in the Pilot stage with 3 sites including Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Lower Sioux. In February 2016 the Pathway will be opened statewide.

The guidebooks were designed to provide a step by step process for Tribal communities statewide as a support mechanism as they work through newly developed tribal trainer/training approval system.





Approved Cultural Trainers and Trainings that are recognized by the MN Center for Professional Development will benefit all Tribal children and Band members across the State of Minnesota. Participants will receive trainings on cultural teachings — providing a way for these traditions to be passed onto future generations.

**GRADUATIONS**

Leech Lake Head Start ended their school year with 98 children graduating. 57 children graduated from the Cass Lake center, 12 from Bemidji, 6 from Ball Club, 8 from Onigum, 9 from Bena, 2 from Sugar Point, and 7 from Inger.

**NEWLY IMPLEMENTED SUMMER PROGRAM**

Our program started an annual Summer Program for 30 children preschool and K-1st grade which is held in Cass Lake. The teachers promotes school readiness skills in the areas of reading and math for the upcoming school year in the fall.

**SUMMER PROGRAM AT LLTC FOR STUDENTS**

The summer program cares for 3 infants and 8 toddlers at the Tribal College. The ECD program to supports parents that are either working or attending summer courses with child care needs. This program follows a daily schedule of age appropriate developmental activities to support the social and cognitive development of each child



# PRESENT FY 2015 EDUCATION UPDATES



## BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG SCHOOLS

Bug-O-Nay-Ge Shig High School graduated 13 seniors total. Four students graduated with a 3.5 GPA or higher. The Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School sent 38 students and 10 staff representatives on the trip for the Tree to DC. The first

### Update on School Building –

Please see the “Government Relations” section under “Legal Department” for a full update on the replacing the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school. School Board Member Rocky Papasodora is the official contact person for the application. We are happy to report we are on target to complete the necessary timeline for applying for construction funding on the federal level. Several letters of support for the Minnesota, North Dakota, and Arizona congressmen/women have been garnered and we thank everyone for their continued support!

### Royalty: 2015-2016

- Jr. Princess is Trinessa Robinson
- Jr. Brave is Aiden White
- Sr. Princess is Seneca Keezer
- Sr. Brave is Jerrod Johnson

## YOوبي CLASS PACK FOR K-5 TEACHERS

The Kids in Need Foundation donated over 54 Yoobi Class Packs for grade K-5 teachers at Cass Lake-Bena and King School in Deer River. The Yoobi Class Packs are given to a classroom teacher and provide supplies for up to 30 students. The pack includes crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, and more.

The Kids in Need Foundation are donating school supplies to Leech Lake for the Backpack Giveaways. Leech Lake is eligible for this partnership as some area schools have 70% or more of their students getting free or reduced lunch.

Former Leech Lake Legacy President and current Native American Humane Society Vice President Marilou Chanrasmi worked with the Band on obtaining this opportunity and helped transport the Class Packs from the Twin Cities to area schools.

# LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE



## **2014-2015 Total Enrollment:**

- Fall 2014: 229 students 93% Native American Students
- Spring 2015: 200 students 89% Native American Students
- 21 different Tribal Nations represented this school year out of 44 graduates

LLTC expanded the number of endowed scholarships from two to six in the past year. Increasing the availability of scholarships allows our students a better opportunity to be successful with their educational paths.

## **Commercial Tobacco-Free Policy**

Effective as of August 2014, LLTC was the first college in Minnesota and first Tribal College in the nation to partner in the Healthier Campus Initiative through the Partnership for a Healthier America

Prohibits use of commercial tobacco use on campus while in no way infringing on the traditional/ceremonial/sacred use of asemaa or tobacco. With this policy in place it creates a healthy environment without the harm of secondhand smoke

## **New Public Library Facility**

- \$2.7 million newly constructed 9,000 square foot facility
- Houses the library, Learning Center, a SMART classroom & 56 computers

## **2015 Outstanding Nonprofit Initiative Award**

- LLTC received the 2015 Outstanding Nonprofit Initiative Award by the Initiative Foundation of Little Fall, MN
- LLTC obtained grant funds for the Financial Resiliency through Social Enterprise program
- Turned the LLTC in-house print shop into a profit center providing educational and employment opportunities while meeting the community's wider printing needs
- LLTC President Donald Day traveled to D.C. to attend the White House College Opportunity Day of Action alongside President Obama, the First Lady, the Vice President and hundreds of other college presidents
- LLTC is committed to partnering with other colleges, business leaders and nonprofits to support students across the country to help our country reach its goal of leading the world in college completion

# PRESENT FY 2015 HOUSING UPDATES

## **District I Renovation and Assessment Project**

- Since the District I portfolio assessment is now completed, LLHA will begin construction, renovations and upgrades to 22-28 units beginning this summer

## **Permanent Supportive Housing**

- LLHA is in the planning and pre-development process to construct and maintain 24 housing units specifically intended for veterans and their families

## **Community Outreach Program**

- LLHA intends to bring our resources and services to outlying communities by establishing satellite office hours
- Housing holds preventative maintenances classes to educate the tenants on how to properly maintain their homes and prevent larger issues.

## **LLHA and LLTC Partnership – Building Eco-Affordable Homes**

For the past year, LLHA, LLTC and LLBO administrative staff held meetings to implement a new partnership in building “eco-affordable” homes

The mutually-beneficial partnership envisions the following concept:

- Tribal College students spend one academic year learning, designing and constructing one to two smaller, single family homes
- LLHA supplies construction materials and designates area for home to be placed
- LLHA and LLTC will work towards providing internships and possible employment for construction students graduating







### Embracing “Two Spirited LGBTQ Awareness Day”

On June 17th LLHA held their Two Spirited LGBTQ Awareness Day in partnership with Outfront Minnesota. This event helped raise awareness and build a community for youth with sexual identity questions. The event envisions a state and tribe where LGBTQ individuals have equal opportunities, protection and rights. Attendees enjoyed a lunch, variety of speakers and door prizes.



# PRESENT FY 2015 UPDATES TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

From January 15 to May 15, 2015 the Tribal Development Division has applied for 17 grants. Leech Lake has been awarded 5 applications for \$272,332, 12 applications are pending federal action and 1 application is in the process of being planned. The following grant application are 5 CTAS, MN Legacy Fund, ANA, Emergency Services Program, MEOG & Clearway that total \$5,974,311 in total funding requests from granting agencies.

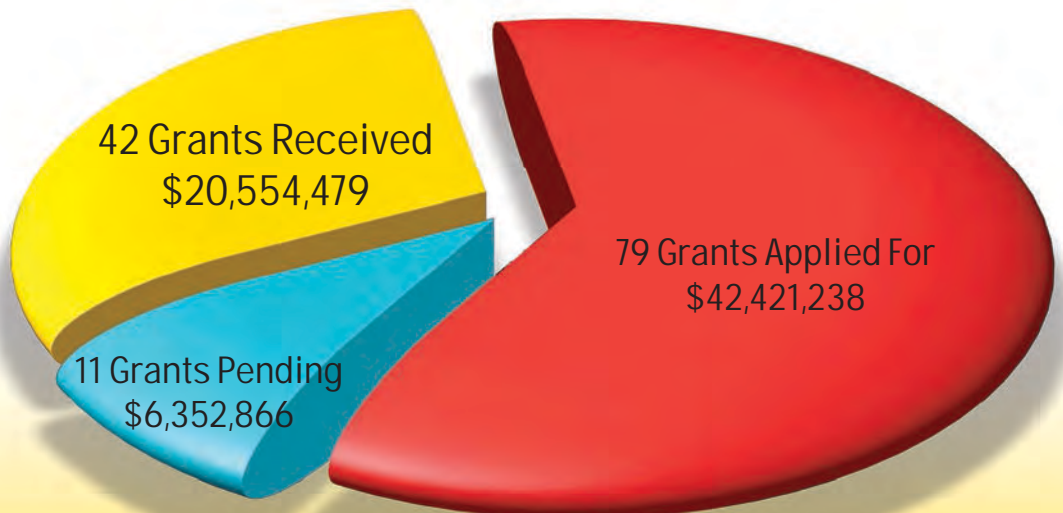
As of June 30, 2010 to May 16, 2015 the Tribal Development Division has applied for 109 grants or assisted in applications. In that period, Leech Lake has requested \$55,270,623 in grant funding, Leech Lake has been awarded 58 grants for \$23,615,855 and Leech Lake has \$10,001,218 pending determinations in funding requests from granting agencies in FY '14 & '15.

As of July 1, 2010 to May 15, 2015 the Tribal Development Division has been assigned by the Reservation Business Committee or received assistance requests from other Divisions, programs, LIC's and community members with 72 projects that have a total of \$78,937,636 in funding needed or resolution of past issues and completed projects.

The Tribal Development Division's mission is to serve and receive its direct orders from the Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee. We have been entrusted to provide a service in securing grants and completing projects. We also have responsibility with the compliance of grant opportunities and completing those grants in a satisfactory matter. The planning of projects are inline with mainstream construction calculations and consumer agency formulas for total cost of projects and projected revenues. As always, we have a lot projects on the shelf with limited funding sources and the competition for grants has been fierce.

## GRANT ACTIVITY

Grants Applied For, Received, and Pending 2010-2014



# PRESENT FY 2015 UPDATES

## TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICES



### TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICES

Each of the following projects were staffed with T.E.R.O. referrals in 2014 and are on-going:

- I.H.S. expansion with Nor Son Inc.
- Construction on new Leech Lake Opiate building with Ver Con Inc.
- Highway #2 passing lanes between Leech Lake and Deer River with flaggers, truck drivers and laborers

**T.E.R.O. has dispatched Band members to positions working on North Dakota road projects.**

**In 2015, T.E.R.O. assisted with employment on the following projects:**

- Highway #2 passing lanes to Deer River with Reiersen Construction
- Leech Lake Judicial Center with Shingobee Builders Inc.
- Highway 371 repairs between Cass Lake to Walker with Anderson Bros.
- Assisted Living Care Facility with Frontier Construction
- Highway #33 Mission Road project with Knife River Materials
- Paving projects in Wilkinson, North Side, and Bena bike path



### ANOKII-DAA TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (T.E.P.)

Anokii-Daa program provides temporary employment and income to many Band members throughout the year. In 2015, T.E.P. assisted with 25 burials and raked or mowed 108 lawns.

# PRESENT FY 2015 HEALTH UPDATES

## ELDER ASSISTED CARE LIVING FACILITY

- Groundbreaking held in April 2015
- Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community awarded a \$1 million grant to LLBO to aid with construction and equipment of an Assisted Care Living Facility in Cass Lake
- Over 21 healthcare, administrative and other job positions will be created upon opening the facility. LLBO will work towards training Band members to fill these positions.
- The facility will be housing for elders with services plus medical care.

## KEY FEATURES OF THE FACILITY WILL INCLUDE:

- 27 residential living units with 11 units dedicated for assisted living, 14 dedicated to skilled nursing care, 2 units dedicated to hospice care
- A dialysis wing with 8 dialysis stations
- Exam rooms, physical therapy services offered in collaboration with area healthcare partners
- Project is expected to be complete by August of 2016.



# PRESENT FY 2015 HUMAN SERVICES UPDATES

## PRENATAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL EXPOSURE

- Tribal Chair Carri Jones presented a new resolution to address the public health emergency concerning pregnant women and newborn babies exposed to alcohol or drug abuse in April 2014
- Over the past year it has come to the Band's attention that an increasing number of newborn babies are experiencing negative side effects due to the mother's drug abuse. Methamphetamine (meth) has now surpassed all drugs as the most frequently reported controlled substances found in newborn babies
- Human Services is in process of forming a task force to address this issue. The task force has goals to impact public policy and emphasize cultural values for healing.
- Work towards no longer stigmatizing pregnant mothers with drug issues and instead, embrace and support our women towards a healthier lifestyle

## OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

- Program expanded to provide treatment in Ball Club and Bena
- Expanding to Onigum this year
- Chemical Health Assessments are provided in several communities

## ADDICTION & DEPENDENCY PROGRAM - AHNJIBEMAHDIZ MEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE

- The facility provides a sheltered live-in support system for chemically dependent men who want to live a life free of alcohol or substance abuse
- Provides cultural and counseling services in partnership with Behavioral Health
- An expansion of the Men's Halfway House was completed this past Spring 2015 using the division's billing revenue
- Facility expanded from 6 beds to 30 beds





# PRESENT FY 2015 HEALTH UPDATES

Comprises more than 55 programs that are partially funded through third party billing totaling \$993,137 of revenue for the Band.

## NEW MOBILE CLINIC FOR OUTLYING COMMUNITIES

The Health division has recently purchased and completed renovations for a fully mobile clinic to serve Band members living in our spread out communities. The mobile clinic stationed at S. Lake in the beginning of June and at Kego Lake on July 16th. The mobile clinic offers various clinical services such as health assessments for adults and children, well child care check ups, prenatal appointments, and immunizations. Patient Benefits program will also be available to assist community members with signing up for health insurance. Call Health division to receive the upcoming mobile clinic schedule.

## CLINICAL SERVICES

- Tribally operated clinics are held in Ball Club, Bemidji, Bena, Cass Lake, Inger and Onigum communities
  - Services available include contraception, diabetic education, immunizations, nursing services, pregnancy counseling and testing, STD/HIV testing and more
  - Approximately 2,089 have visiting community clinics as of May 2015
- Home Health Care provided in-home nursing care to 79 individuals with



a total of 639 visits as of May 31, 2015.

- Health division also provides transportation to medical appointments throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and the Reservation to 1,957 individuals as of May 2015. Health has almost exceeded the number of transports compared to last year.
- The Band's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided emergency medical transportation to 1,414 individuals in the past year. Ambulances Services received and responded to a total of 1,409 calls. This year EMS responded to an increase of approximately 200 more calls and 200 more patients transported compared to 2013. EMS increased the number of classes they taught in the past year from 55 classes in 2013 to 70 classes in 2014. In comparison, 529 individuals were certified in 2013 while 657 individuals were certified in 2014.

As evidence by the increase of calls and individuals serviced by EMS, the Band is currently lobbying to provide more funding, training and equipment for our EMS staff.

## NON-CLINICAL SERVICES

As of May 31, 2015, Elderly Nutrition Program delivered meals to 447 elders throughout the Reservation and served meals at Cass Lake, Bena, Ball Club, Onigum and Kego Lake. The Nutritional Supplement and Diet Program provides resources for nutritional therapy and nutritional supplements such as Ensure to Band members. In 2015, the Health division greatly increased our numbers from previous years up to 50 people receiving supplements and 359 people receiving nutritional therapy!

The Food Distribution program distributed 310,068 pounds of food to 4,698 households who meet income guidelines

- Please note: Statistics provided are based on visits billed – Leech Lake receives many more client visits that are unaccounted for due to being unbillable through insurance

## OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM

- Revenue has grown substantially since Opioid opening in 2012
- Opioid is a self-sufficient division and provides funding assistance to 12 other LLBO divisions
- The entire program will benefit from an increase in space to run efficiently
- Opioid currently treats 110 clients. Upon new facility completion, the Opioid Program will be able to treat up to 200 clients
- Job opportunities will be available as Opioid will need to hire additional staff for the new facility



# PRESENT FY 2015 TRIBAL ASSISTANCE UPDATES

## TRIBAL ASSISTANCE CONSISTS OF FIVE PROGRAMS:

1. Tribal Assistance
2. MFIP/DWP/NEW
3. Veteran Services
4. Elder Advocates
5. Energy Assistance

## TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

Programs have assisted 1,701 Band members aged 55+ whom are permanently disabled for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Programs also assist Band members with financial assistance for basic food and household needs, rental assistance, utility bills, and home/auto repairs. Individuals must meet certain eligibility requirements and assistance is capped at \$300/per year. Assistance must be paid to the vendor not the Band member.

Funeral assistance for Band members totaling \$5,000 directly to funeral homes and \$500 directly to families to assist with costs of food or other funeral needs. Tribal Assistance also provides \$250 to Band members to help with costs of an immediate family member who is not enrolled at Leech Lake.

- Assisted 2,157 Band members with medical appointments or emergencies
- Assisted 112 LLBO employees with heating payroll advance loans. Employees may receive this assistance once a year to help with heating bills.

## MFIP/DWP/NEW

Programs assist Band members with supportive services to become self-sufficient by obtaining their high school diploma, GED, post-secondary education, short-term training and/or employment. To be eligible, Band members must be enrolled, receive MFIP benefits and reside in Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, or Itasca counties.

Participants became employed with the Leech Lake Band, Gaming or various private businesses.

- Served a total of 350 Band members. 51 of these participants exited the program and became successfully “self-sufficient” in 2015

## VETERAN SERVICES

- In July 2014 Veteran Services hired a driver to assist veterans with transportation to medical appointment, pay thier bills, and run errands
- Assisted over 65 veterans with supportive services such as gas vouchers, car repairs, license renewals, clothing allowance, and heating/electrical/rental/medical bills
- Assists with applying for VA benefits/MACV services and wheelchair loans/repairs



## ELDER ADVOCATES

Elder Advocates travel throughout the Band's three districts to provide assistance for:

- Transportation to medical appointments, shopping, and banking
- Home visits
- Filling out County, State and Social Security forms
- Eyeglasses and dentures
- Encouraging participation in active lifestyle program Wisdom Steps

Elder advocates actively participate in the Elder Service Providers Network (ESPN), a collaboration of local elder service providers made up of MCT programs, LLBO employees, and other various community organizations.

ESPN has put on a variety of elder events throughout the year including:

- Dancing Down Memory Lane in July 2014
- Holiday Gathering at Northern Lights in December 2014
- Indigenous Elder Abuse Awareness Conference at Mystic Lake in May 2015
- Elder Wellness Expo in September 2014





# JUSTICE CENTER

# PRESENT FY 2015 JUSTICE CENTER UPDATES

## LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COURT

*"The Mission of the Leech Lake Tribal Court is to establish a fair and effective justice system incorporating research-based practices and Ojibwe culture and values; to protect the rights of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe people; to preserve natural and Band resources; and to promote peace, health and public safety within the Leech Lake Reservation."*

## BIA ASSESSMENT FOR COURT DEVELOPMENT

- Tribal Courts participated in a BIA Assessment to help distinguish areas of success and areas for improvement
- Once results are release, the Tribal Court hopes to obtain funding for a court administrator and court operations to better serve Band members

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH LLBO CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

- Agreement provided funds to hire a Deputy Clerk of Court
- The Deputy Clerk ensures efficient and timely management of tribal court documents



## JUDICIAL CENTER CONSTRUCTION

- The groundbreaking on the new Judicial Center was held in April 2015 behind the Government Building in Cass Lake
- The new facility will include 2 court rooms, space for jury trials and deliberations, office space for police, court operations, probation and the LLBO Legal Department

• Construction is progressing nicely and will be completed in March 2016



# PRESENT FY 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

## TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

*“The Mission of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police Department is committed to a Loyal Partnership of Public Service, the prevention of crime and the preservation of the peace, safety and order within the Leech Lake Reservation.”*

Tribal Police answered 9,206 calls for services during the 2014 calendar year.

## ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Tribal Police has hired on a second Narcotics Investigator to address the increase of calls of service regarding substance abuse and meth
- Grant monies are being used in continue with projects coordinated by Meth Project Coordinator Patty Bittner. Patty has presented 146 times over the course of the 2014 year

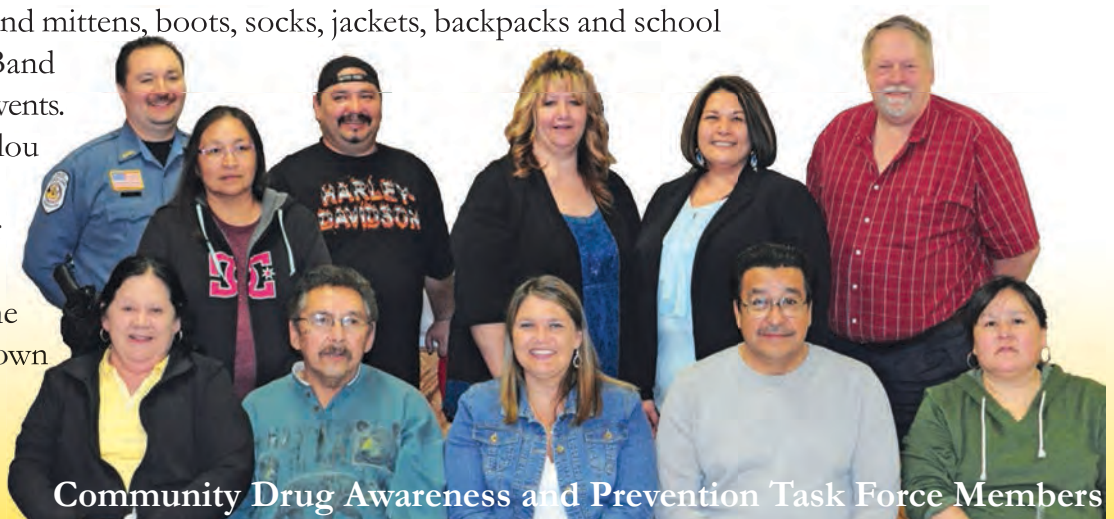
## LEECH LAKE LEGACY

Marilou Chanrasmi, Former President and Co-Founder of Leech Lake Legacy has been working in our surrounding Reservation communities hosting spay, neuter and surrender clinics for our pets with Tribal Police

- Leech Lake Legacy has hosted over 14 spay neuter clinics since the first clinic was held in March 2012
  1. 2,231 animals (1,500 dogs, 724 cats, 7 critters) transported and adopted
  2. 1,121 animals have been spayed/neutered
  3. 49 animals received specialty surgeries such as hernia or quill removal
  4. 1,189 animals have received wellness checks, vaccinations, de-wormer and flea/tick treatment
  5. 457 dog houses distributed
  6. 200,000 pounds of dog and cat food to LLBO residents
- Marilou has also coordinated various other non-pet related donations including 6,500 hats and mittens, boots, socks, jackets, backpacks and school supplies for various Band members and Band events.

The Band gifted Marilou with a star quilt and plaque to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the dedication she has shown our beloved pets throughout the years.

Chi'miigwech!



Community Drug Awareness and Prevention Task Force Members

PUBLIC SAFETY





# LEGAL DEPARTMENT

# PRESENT FY 2015 LEGAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Legal Department comprises of three divisions, Legal, Government Relations and Child Support.

## LEGAL

The Band's Legal Division does not provide direct legal representation to Band members, but rather represents the Band government, subsidiaries and its employees in and out of the court system. Presently, the Legal department case load consists of a large number of cases:

- Approximately 200 total child welfare cases, 100 non-tribal court cases and 100 tribal court cases.
- Approximately 150 housing tribal court cases, 6 truancy cases and 12 other juvenile delinquency matters.
- Approximately 10 conservation cases, 650 traffic cases.
- The Legal Division also continues to manage and provide in-house general counsel services to the Band.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS ORDINANCE

- Legal and Tribal Police collaborated on the administrative complaints ordinance to capture revenue for certain traffic offenses through our tribal system as opposed to traditional court system proceedings
- Legal and Financial Services' collaboration is encouraged between various LLBO divisions in order to provide the best resources for our Band membership to become financially self-sufficient.

## CHILD SUPPORT

In 2011 the Leech Lake Child Support program became fully comprehensive. The Child Support Program collected \$931,886 in current and past due support for 2015. That is a 22% increase over the years 2013 (\$762,540) and a 656% increase over 2012 (\$142,046).

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND LOBBYING EFFORTS

The Government Relations Division coordinates interactions with both Federal and State policy makers, agency personnel and other public stakeholders. Significant efforts during 2014 and 2015 have centered on seeking funding to build a new Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School and ensuring that the Band's schools have the appropriate level of resources to give our youth the best chances for a quality education and a bright future. We have placed a priority in requesting funding for our Niigaane language immersion program to revitalize the Ojibwe language on the Leech Lake Reservation. In addition to education, the Government Relations Division works on many issues affecting the Band and Band membership including the return of transportation infrastructure, emergency medical services and health care, telecommunications access, housing and homelessness issues.

## MN INDIAN EDUCATION HEARINGS TESTIMONY

At the end of February, Tribal Chair Carri Jones submitted written testimony on behalf of the Band membership supporting the 2015 Indian Education Working Group's recommendations. Some of the key recommendations that the Leech Lake Nation supports includes:

- Increasing funding to \$4.5 million to fund the Success for the Future (SFF). Historically, SFF has been a competitive grant for schools in Minnesota and thus the uncertainty is too great to do long-term planning. We recommended SFF becomes a program that benefits all eligible Native students. By increasing funding and removing the competitive nature of the grant, schools will be enabled to make long-term goals.
- Lift the \$1,500 cap on per pupil funding in the Bureau of Indian Education Tribal School equalization formula, thus allowing more funding for the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school. With limited federal appropriated funds, we are unable to offer competitive wages. Additional funding will allow Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school to provide a just and equitable education for our students.
- Create and fund new Early Childhood programs in Tribal communities as many are isolated and rural with many families lacking transportation.
- Draft legislation to create a provision to allow flexibility for boards of charter schools operating within Tribal communities to determine their membership and board composition. The current language does not reflect the goals of Indian education as the legislation is written now. We encourage the State to draft charter school statutes through the lens of Native American educators.

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Board Chair Rocky Papasodora provided verbal testimony in front of the MN Senate and House Committees also concerning Indian Education. Mr. Papasodora focused his comments on the per pupil funding concerns in the BIE Tribal School Equalization formula. As Commissioner of Education Brenda Cassellius previously stated, the average per pupil funding in Minnesota is approximately \$10,000 per pupil compared to the \$1,500 funding cap per BIE student in Minnesota.

Leech Lake is dedicated towards fighting these educational obstacles our Tribal schools face. The Minnesota Legislature concluded their one-day special session on June 13th and I'm pleased to report the legislation appropriates a total of \$16.7 million for Indian education formula aid and an increase of \$5 million for tribal contract schools. The Indian education aid is replacing the Success for the Future program as we recommended. It allows schools to be eligible to receive aid that enroll 20+ American Indian students and operating an American Indian education program. The legislation also amends the calculation for determining tribal contract or grant school aid and raises the maximum per pupil aid cap from \$1,500 to \$3,230 for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

As a result of our efforts, the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school will receive an increase of \$1.3 million for the next two years. The Band thanks Governor Mark Dayton and his Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. These increases were achieved because Governor Dayton insisted they be enacted and were an important item of negotiation in the Omnibus Education Bill veto and calling of a Special Session.

Another success we had this legislative session was grants to preserve the Dakota and Ojibwe language. The Indian Affairs Council will receive \$1 million each year to provide grants and \$125,000 is dedicated to each the Niiganne school and Wicoie Nandagikendan Urban Immersion Project. Some in the legislature advocated for eliminating the amount dedicated to our Niiganne immersion program. I would like to thank Senator Tom Saxhaug who stood up strong for us and worked very hard to preserve the Ojibwe language on the Leech Lake Reservation. Without his leadership, the program would not have gotten this needed funding.



# LEGAL DEPARTMENT



## BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG SCHOOL LOBBYING UPDATE

As you may have read in previous Quarterly Reports, the Band continues our lobbying efforts at the State and Federal levels to funding to construct a new school. In January Governor Dayton submitted a letter to Dr. Charles Roessel, Director of Bureau of Indian Education, requesting BIE to seriously consider their funding appropriations for school construction. Dayton writes, “BIE schools in Minnesota are forced to operate with inadequate per-pupil-funding...the state should not be in the position of subsidizing broken federal promises”.

RBC members recently traveled to Washington where Tribal Chair Jones provided written and Verbal testimony before the U.S. House Appropriations Committee on Interior and the Environment regarding the need to replace the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school. The Tribal Chair was introduced by Congressman Rick Nolan and provided her testimony to the Committee which is chaired by Congressman Ken Calvert of California. Congresswoman Betty McCollum serves as Ranking Member and continues her tireless work to assist us on this matter.

Recently, Chairman of the influential U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, John Kline sent a letter to the appropriations committee supporting our efforts to replace the school.

The Tribal Chair also testified in Washington before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in an oversight hearing on the Bureau of Indian Education: “Examining Organizational Challenges in Transforming Educational Opportunities for Indian Children.” She received a special introduction by Senator Al Franken before giving her testimony.

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee included an additional \$60 million for school construction activities under the Bureau of Indian Education, some of which may be made available for





the construction of our new high school. Although the work of Congress is not yet complete, this is a very big step forward and we will continue to aggressively pursue this objective. We expect a number of additional federal actions in the coming weeks and months.

For example, just a few short weeks ago, Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN-03) who sits on the influential Ways and Means Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, took to the floor to lend his support for efforts by House Interior Appropriations Committee Member Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) and House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN-02). Both have been staunch advocates for increases in funding for the construction of schools in Indian Country and specifically for the replacement of our High School facility. The support for our efforts in Washington continues to grow!

Further and of significant importance, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announced in the middle of July that 78 BIE-funded education sites have been determined to be eligible applicants for the No Child Left Behind Act new school replacement. The Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School was invited to apply for the funding which is available to carry out activities under this particular program. Ultimately the NBIE is in the process of creating a new replacement school construction list for BIE-funded schools.

There are a number of steps that we are currently in the process of completing, including completing the required application in the 45 day window that was provided by the Department. We have been in very close contact with the Minnesota Department of Education who have offered additional resources so the Band can work with them to aggressively pursue and complete the application. After the completion of the application, it is our expectation that approximately 10 applicants will be invited to present before the National Review Committee (NRC). It is our hope that our project will have the opportunity to be presented.

In addition to this particular list of school replacement needs, we expect that there will be an additional list released sometime



around the same time which will look at facilities which are a part of school complexes – such as the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School facility. This also represents a unique opportunity for the positioning of the school for replacement as funds are identified and secured by our legislative allies – particularly Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Al Franken, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Congressman John Kline, Congressman Rick Nolan, and most recently Congressman Erik Paulsen.

The RBC is pleased to report these significant steps forward as they relate to the replacement of the High School Facility and we will continue to work together towards this common objective.

Although not fully related to the construction of a new school, we had a very successful year advocating at the Minnesota State Legislature which will result in over \$1 million in new funding to help educate our students. Specifically, the following educational achievements which were fought hard for and successfully achieved including

- The addition of language into the 2015 State Education bill that helps address the funding discrepancies between American Indian students and the rest of Minnesota's student body. The bill provides \$17.6 to address the current achievement gap and to create a productive and effective education program (Benefits 93% of all American Indian students in Minnesota)
  - \$167,000 will be allocated to the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School
  - In addition, Leech Lake will receive a one-time BIE per pupil formula increase in funding: The Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school will receive an increase of \$1,313,554
  - \$125,000 will go to the Niigaane Immersion Center at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School

## HOMELESS SUPPORTIVE SERVICES LOBBYING EFFORTS

Tribal Planner Shannon Avery provided verbal testimony in front of the Health and Human Services Finance Committee in support of Homeless Supportive Services. Ms. Avery expressed the Band's support for H.F. 977, a bill that will address the long-term homeless supportive services concerns in Minnesota. With many families living in camp sites at the Leech Lake Veteran's and Ball Club Powwow grounds, we see the issue of homelessness continuing to grow each year. In the final Health and Human Services Finance bill, an additional \$1 million per year will be appropriated to the long-term homeless supportive services fund. This will provide more available funds for Leech Lake to help curb homelessness throughout the Band membership.

## LAND TRANSFER UPDATE

In Washington and as the Band has previously reported, we are continuing efforts to secure additional federal support and funding to enable the replacement of the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School. In addition to advancing this important priority, we are working on a number of other extremely important initiatives. Of specific note, we are working to transfer back to the Leech Lake Reservation 17,000 acres of lands that were illegally transferred from our control in the 1950s through federal government action known as the "Secretarial Transfer process". Under this process, the Department of the Interior (DOI) sold allotted Leech Lake Reservation lands in violation of federal law and without the consent of all tribal heirs and transferred the lands to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Forest Service (FS) for



inclusion in the Chippewa National Forest (CNF).

## LEECH LAKE AMBULANCE TESTIMONY

Advanced Training Officer and Paramedic Joseph Beaudreau gave verbal testimony in front of the Minnesota Senate Finance Committee on behalf of the Leech Lake Ambulance Services in the beginning of March. Leech Lake Ambulance covers an area of 550 miles across four counties and has logged over 1,300 calls in the last year – a figure that we see increasing each year. Leech Lake gave testimony in front of the State in order to upgrade the provider level to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (Advanced EMT) status with the eventual goal of becoming a certified Paramedic Service for our communities. Advanced EMT personnel are equipped with a wider knowledge concerning medication administration and caring for cardiac, trauma and medical emergencies. Paramedics have an even greater knowledge for monitoring cardiac arrhythmias and are also certified to give medications to manage those in pain or needing sedation.

Leech Lake Ambulance lobbied the state for needed equipment and training in order for these medical professionals to gain Advanced EMT or Paramedic status. The calls dispatched to Leech Lake Ambulance can be as far as 30 miles away with possible weather conditions making the route longer. The ability for Leech Lake Ambulance to obtain the equipment and training needed for advanced medical care would greatly enhance survival rates.

A provision appropriating \$200,000 to the Leech Lake ambulance service for equipment upgrades was included in the Minnesota House's version of the Health and Human Services Finance bill. Unfortunately, the provision was not included in the final package. We will continue to work to achieve these outcomes. The Band thanks Representative John Persell for his incredible advocacy in pursuing better EMS health outcomes for Leech Lake.



# PRESENT FY 2015 DRM UPDATES

## DIVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- DRM held a civil regulatory training for Tribal Police, Pike Bay Officers and Cass County Sheriff deputies in April 2015. The training teaches law enforcement officers who work within Indian country about how tribal civil regulatory law is the only law that can be applied to tribal members in Indian country. The trainings were held to ensure that the laws passed by our elected officials are enforced and that we are not allowing other government entities to govern our peoples.
- DRM secured \$804,000.00 of Chippewa National Forest funds for resource gathering enhancement and education. Information kiosks at recreational sites on tribal lands and Chippewa National Forest lands will educate the public on treaty rights and natural resources. DRM strives to keep our Band members and communities informed as we are less likely to lose our inherit rights than those who do not know what their rights are.
- As well as educating community members, DRM also ensures continuing education with our employees. Three Environmental-Land employees acquired federal credentials through the Department of Interior which will increase turnaround time for tribal members receiving information on their tribal land. DRM has recently install a federal computer at their office where these three employees will be able to access the entire data base of BIA records.
- DRM hosted 4th annual Take a Kid Ricing in September 2014. Over 52 community members participated in taking youth ricing to introduce the next generation to this cultural tradition.
- DRM implemented Summer Youth Experience in 2014 and currently in 2015. The Environmental Departments seeks 10 youth aged 13-15 who will have the opportunity to spend two weeks working alongside Environmental staff on various projects.
- DRM and the Tribal Chair's Office hosted the annual Spring Tree Giveaway in May 2015. Participants received a variety of tree and shrub seedlings to take home while the children painted flower pots. Everyone enjoyed a nice day outside eating picnic food and listening to music.
- DRM placed housing parcels of land into tax exempt status saving the Band an estimated \$84,000. DRM and Cass County signed a Memorandum of Understanding to authorize particular housing parcels into tax exempt status, cutting our property taxes from \$220,000 to \$140,000. The Band encourages this type of collaboration to build strong partnerships to benefit the Band.
- DRM started to collect revenue of the Traders Bay planned unit development and have planned completion of environmentally friendly community sewers system by June 2015. The Band is now generating \$100,000 on this property which increased program revenue by \$86,000 – nearly 20% of DRM's total budget.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## CULTURAL NATURAL RESOURCES

- Following the 2015 wild ricing season, DRM purchased over 89,000 pounds of wild rice from LLBO Band members resulting in \$178,000 injected into the local economy
- Leech Lake Reservation contains 40 wild rice producing lakes, more than any other reservation in the State of the Minnesota
- Approximately 300 acres of land have been purchased in the past year



# PRESENT FY 2015 GAMING UPDATES

Leech Lake Gaming continues to grow, increasing the ability to fund government programs as well as provide additional economic development and job creation for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. After a couple of years of down trends, Leech Lake Gaming revenues and income have recovered and returned to growth.

## CAPITAL INITIATIVES:

Leech Lake Gaming continues to invest in the long-term viability of operations through capital expenditures. The following projects are completed or in process.

- **Purchase of a new Point of Sale/Property Management System (Agilisys).** This will allow a much broader scope of enhanced guest service through interface with the player's club system as well as web-interfaces.
- **Expansion of White Oak Casino Parking and Access Road.** As part of a long-range plans to develop the White Oak property, parking and access areas are being enhanced to allow for further development.
- **Reconditioning of Northern Lights Casino Entrance.** A major maintenance project is under way to preserve the entrances to the casino. This will greatly enhance the curb appeal of the NLC property.
- **Digital Signage.** Development of the use of digital technology to communicate information to our guests.
- **Guest Service Kiosks.** Investment in and utilization of kiosks to provide improved guest service to patrons.
- **Video-Conferencing.** Currently utilized at a small scale, Leech Lake has invested in the infrastructure to utilize video-conferencing to reduce both the time and expense associated with site meetings. This investment has already paid for itself in reduction in mileage payments and manager time utilization.

## HUMAN RESOURCE INITIATIVES:

Gaming continues to focus on the development of employment opportunities on the reservation.

- **Leech Lake/American Indian Preference.** A renewed focus has been placed on the hiring and development of LLBO members into the Leech Lake Gaming workforce. Recent reinforcement of hiring policies have led to over 60% of employees hired LLBO enrolled and over 85% of those being hired of enrolled American Indians.
- **Continued Wage Enhancement.** Leech Lake Gaming, following the directive of the Leech Lake Gaming Commission has enhanced the minimum wage well above the state and federal minimum wage standards.

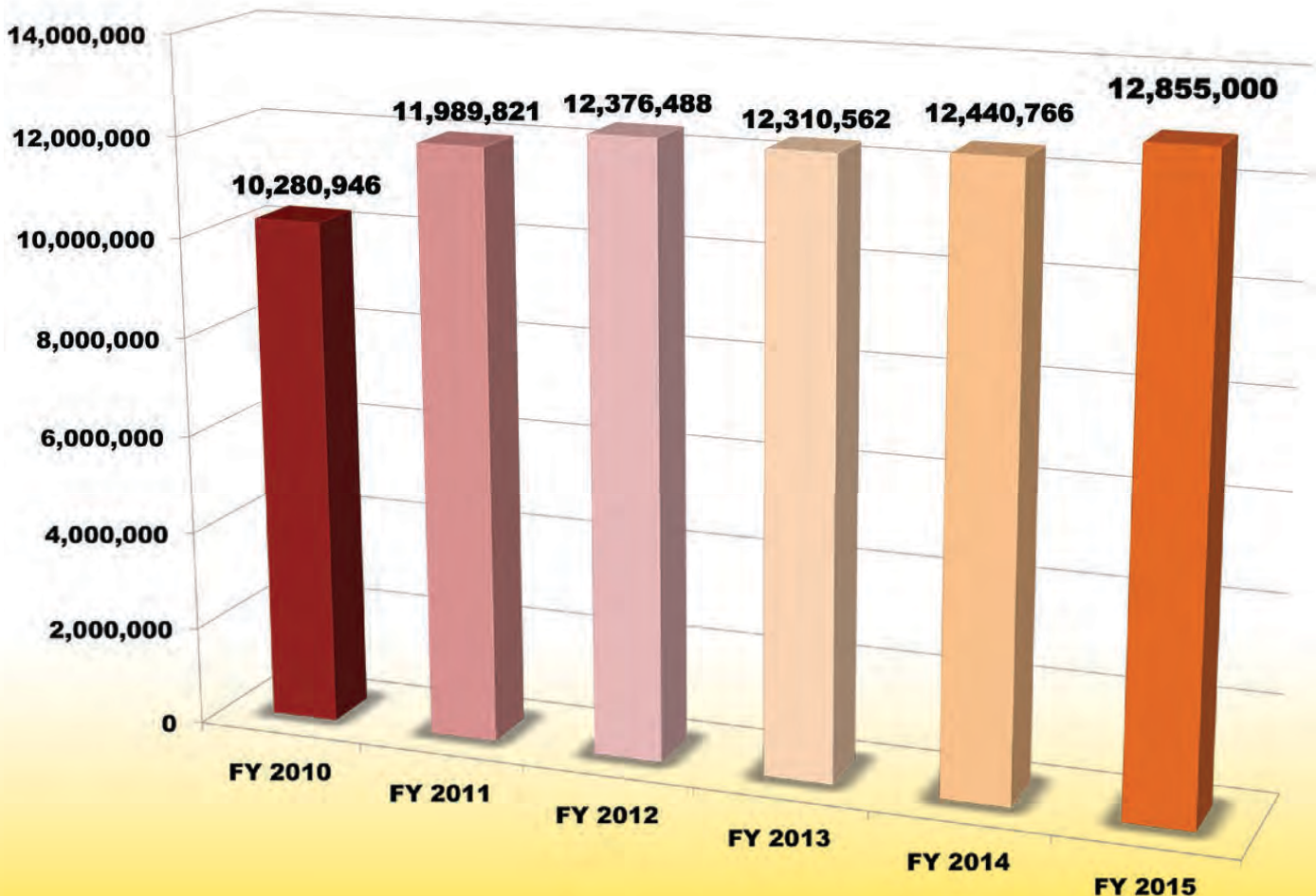
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH:

Leech Lake Gaming continues to provide an economic source for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on several levels. While there have been setbacks such as the loss of Native Tobacco Revenue loss, rather than create barriers, Leech Lake Gaming has developed means to carry forth strong revenue and profitability through innovative Marketing and Player Development strategies.

- Slot Revenue. Slot Revenue which efficiently flows through to profitability of the casinos has shown significant growth, with a projected \$2 Million (3%) increase for Fiscal Year 2015.
- Table Games Revenue. Table Games Revenue has shown growth through the concerted effort as well, increasing by a projected \$150,000 compared to the prior year.
- Profitability. Profitability for Leech Lake Gaming is projected to increase by approximately \$1.3 Million compared to Last Year. (From \$11.5M to \$12.8M).
- Payroll. Leech Lake Gaming continues to be a leading job provider, providing substantial economic impact. Leech Lake Gaming is projected to contribute over \$34 Million in payroll to the region in Fiscal Year 2015.



## GAMING DISTRIBUTIONS TO TRIBE



# PRESENT FY 2015 GAMING UPDATES

## FUTURE GOALS:

Leech Lake Gaming continues to develop expansion of the business through several projects that continue to be developed. Through an increase in both economic and physical footprints, Leech Lake Gaming will continue to provide a stable revenue source for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO



Several projects at Northern Lights are being considered and development being evaluated including:

- Simulcast Horse Racing. While the process on this has slowed pending slow government regulatory response, this continues to move forward. Inevitably, Leech Lake Gaming will see this process through to completion.
- Shingobee Project. Currently, Shingobee is being evaluated for structural soundness and it appears that there will



be no major issues with the building. Leech Lake Gaming is working with LLBO to determine the next step to develop the site into a revenue generating facility.

- RV Area. Reviewing the cost-effectiveness of the development of an RV Park on the Northern Lights Casino property footprint.

## WHITE OAK CASINO EXPANSION REVIEW



- Currently White Oak Casino operates at near maximum capacity with minimal amenities. Expansion of the parking and utilization has already been taking place. Feasibility reviews are being developed to determine the most appropriate way to expand the facility to maximize profitability for the Tribe.

## PALACE CASINO REPLACEMENT



- Gaming is reviewing all options with regards to location and feasibility of a new Palace Casino building. There are limited options for relocation which narrows the options. However, it is imperative that options continue to be analyzed for the long-term viability of a Cass Lake casino.

Overall, continued investment in and cultivation of the gaming enterprise is imperative to the long-term sustainability of Leech Lake Gaming. While there have been successes in operations to bring Leech Lake Gaming to its current levels, focus on forward vision is key to continued progress with proper attention paid to historical, present and future operations.



# FUTURE GOALS &

## GOALS FOR VOTING LOCATIONS IN CASS AND ITASCA COUNTIES

- In May the U.S. Department of Justice announced it is seeking legislation that would require state and local election officials to work with American Indian tribes to locate at least one polling place on or near each tribe's land
- Leech Lakes is already "ahead of the curve" and hopes to continue collaborative voting efforts with Cass and Itasca County for the year 2016
- 2016 will see greater voter turn-out as the United State presidential election occurs
- Increase transportation for voters, educate voters on their options for casting their ballots

## BILINGUAL OJIBWE/ENGLISH ROAD SIGNS

- In December 2014 the Leech Lake Band and Cass County signed a Memorandum of Agreement to identify and develop Ojibwe and English language road signs in surrounding communities.
- The first bilingual signs were posted in the Prescott community reading "Community Center – Maawanji'idiwigamig". A second bilingual sign was posted in front of the Prescott Community Center reading "Aadisookewigamig – Place where Ojibwe legends are told".
- Tribal Roads plans to post similar signs in other Tribal communities around Cass County. Leech Lake is also currently finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Itasca County in order to post bilingual signs in communities such as S. Lake and Inger.



## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### HUMAN SERVICES

In the near future, Human Services will strive towards becoming more efficient in billing. Therefore, a Revenue and Billing Team has been formed to improve revenue outcomes for the division. The new team will enable Human Services to expand services and become more innovative in its approach to community demands.

### HEALTH

#### Upcoming goals include:

- Tribes and IHS are authorized to pay Medicare like rates on hospital claims. By paying lower rates, Health procures substantial savings for the Band's Self-Insured Health Plan once implemented.
- Currently re-establishing our Nursing department to better serve the Band's many communities. Health plans to hire 2 more RNs for in-home care, an additional RN for community clinics, 1 full time and 1 part time RN for Maternal Child Health, and 3 additional LPNs



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## ANOKII-DAA TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (T.E.P.)

- Goal to record all date, equipment logs, forms and files computerized
- More variety of training to increase participant resume skills
- Create more opportunities for TEP employees to transfer into LLBO departments for job openings/training

## LEECH LAKE HOUSING AUTHORITY

- Housing Authority's goals for the near future are to assess all the homes in Districts 2 and 3 and pursue funding for the complete renovation of the housing stock in those districts.
- Housing Authority has witnessed a growing need for homeownership units for middle and higher income Band members and will explore housing options.
- Housing Authority plans to develop a program for homeownership that will provide homebuyer education and financial planning so that our homebuyers can reach their goals.

## EDUCATION

- Education division will encourage more high school graduates coming out of our project schools and going onto college
- For the upcoming year, Education plans to increase attendance at events and trainings sponsored by our program

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

### Upcoming yearly goals include:

- Expand child care program in Cass Lake to serve additional toddlers in Cass Lake area
- Collaborate with LLTC and CLB High School to offer a Childhood Development Associate in High School Program
- Incorporate a quarterly powwow throughout our various ECD centers
- Hold a regalia making and beadwork groups for the community



# FUTURE GOALS &

## OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM

Opioid Treatment program has many new projects planned upon completion of the new facility including:

- More cultural activities and groups such as sweat lodges
- Add an inpatient program
- Implement an aftercare program
- Day care
- A section of the current building will be converted to a transitional housing for clients who are homeless

## TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICES

- Long term vision to reduce unemployment rates for our Band members
- Increase necessary training, education and economic development to raise living standards within our communities
- Encourage job stability, self-sufficiency and promote our local economy

## TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Future goals include Veteran Services obtaining more state supported funding and grants
- Veteran Services will attend training to become State Certified and will also attend National Association County Veterans Service Officers Conference in 2015 to receive National Accreditation. Obtaining State Certification and National Accreditation will allow employees to better serve veterans applying for benefits, health care and other issues.

## LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE

In the upcoming year, Tribal College hopes to expand our printing shop and create a Design Program to allow for interns and provide real world experience.

- Just completed a new 10-year strategic plan to help guide the college into the future. Plan centers around three main foundational outcomes:
  1. Acquire resources and support to ensure a desirable quality of life
  2. Innovative teaching and learning through academic excellence, accessibility and opportunity
  3. Preserve the ways we connect to our values and culture



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## LEECH LAKE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

**In the upcoming year, Tribal Police plans to:**

- Actively address increasing meth and heroin use in our communities
- Build a partnership with Leech Lake Legacy, Tribal College and UofM Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services (SIRVS) to explore a possible animal care certificate program
- Expand services to remote communities and engage community members



## LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COURT

- Tribal Court has future goals to expand on joint powers agreements and work to include more juvenile cases and problem solving courts for our Band members

## LEGAL DEPARTMENT

- Legal Department plans to introduce a domestic violence code, including but not limited to, allowing individuals to file for orders for protection in tribal court. This will be the first of its kind and will help fight domestic violence in and around the Leech Lake reservation.
- Child Support continues to establish their fairly new division in the upcoming years by continuing the upward trend of child support collections for the benefit of Leech Lake children and families.
- Continue lobbying efforts to increase the Band's visibility and important concerns on State and Federal levels.



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