

To the good people of the Leech Lake Reservation,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our campaign and everyone who participated in the general election.

We the people of the Leech Lake Reservation have taken it upon ourselves to choose a direction and vision for the future of our well being. We have empowered ourselves through the election of qualified experienced leaders; leaders who listen to the needs of the people and respond to these needs in kind. Our vision for the future is bright and I for one can not wait to get back to work serving the people of Leech Lake.

These are historic times and our Reservation needs unity and strong leaders so we may aggressively pursue our agenda regarding issues such as the Nelson Act settlement, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school funding, Superfund clean up, elderly services and so on. We have an opportunity to regain our stature in northern Minnesota as an economic, social, cultural and political powerhouse. It is time to maximize the talent, skills, and ability that lay within our employees. I have several ideas to boost the morale of the employees around the reservation, but after the election as I walk through the offices I see smiling faces and hear laughter more than ever before around here.

We will be lobbying Congress for several things the most important of which will be funding for a new Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school, funding for a new hospital, elder care services and Superfund clean up as well as finding a way to conclude the Nelson Act settlement.

We now have a Council that can hit the ground running regarding all of the aforementioned issues and I will be reporting to you the people every month on the progress we make right here in the Debahjimon.

This election was a historic centerpiece around which our future will be forged. I will do everything in my power to harness the abilities of our staff so that we can leverage as much help as we can in order to do what is best for the good people of the Leech Lake Reservation and for our future. It is an honor to serve you all, and I will not rest until I see substantial change for the better on the Leech Lake Reservation – this I promise you ALL. Thank you all very much. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Michael J. Bongo  
Secretary Treasurer  
Leech Lake Reservation