

RED LAKE BAND

of CHIPPEWA INDIANS

RED LAKE NATION HEADQUARTERS



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OFFICERS:

DARRELL G. SEKI, SR., Chairman
ROBERT L. MAY, Secretary
VERNELLE R. LUSSIER, Treasurer

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

GLEND A. J. MARTIN
EUGENE R. STANDINGCLOUD
ALLEN D. PEMBERTON
HAROLD E. GRAVES, JR.
ROBERT "BOB" SMITH
CLEM H. MAY, SR.
THOMAS BARRETT
LISA R. BEAULIEU

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

7 HEREDITARY CHIEFS

PUBLIC STATEMENT TO RED LAKE MEMBERSHIP

OCTOBER 9, 2026

The Red Lake Tribal Council understands that our members have questions regarding the current situation involving our child welfare program. We also recognize that previous updates have been limited because of ongoing proceedings, personnel protections, and the confidentiality required when matters involve children and families. While those responsibilities remain, we believe our members deserve clear information about the actions their Tribal government has taken.

Yes, personnel actions, including terminations, have occurred as the Nation responds to the serious matters that have come to light. Because these involve personnel matters and ongoing proceedings, we cannot publicly discuss the circumstances involving individual employees.

The Tribal Council also determined that upon the clear advice, guidance, and the recommendation of legal counsel, and in order to protect the integrity and independence of the Nation's response, the Chairman and Tribal Attorney would be recused from matters related specifically to this situation while the relevant issues are reviewed. The Council appointed the Tribal Secretary to oversee only those matters directly related to this situation. This is a temporary and limited assignment and does not otherwise change the duties or authority of the Chairman, Tribal Secretary, or Tribal Attorney. When the circumstances requiring the recusals have been resolved, each will resume their respective duties regarding these matters. The recusals should not be interpreted as a determination of guilt or wrongdoing; they are safeguards intended to preserve the integrity and independence of the process.

We also want to clarify that the scope of the federal reassumption has not been clearly shared with the Tribal Council, but we are working with outside legal counsel, staff, and administration to officially mediate the reassumption, and an independent law judge has been assigned to mediate the ongoing federal reassumption with the intent of returning the Ombi program back to Tribal control as quickly as possible. Although certain programming has been reassumed, the Nation continues working to restore and strengthen other services while ensuring that our children, families, staff, and community receive the support they need.

There are details that we simply cannot release while investigations, personnel matters, and other proceedings remain ongoing. That should not be mistaken for inaction or a lack of transparency. We will continue sharing factual information that can lawfully and responsibly be provided to our membership. Until this matter has been fully resolved, we ask that we remain united and stand in solidarity as a Nation.

Our responsibility is not to protect individuals or political interests. Our responsibility is to protect our children, our families, our employees, our sovereignty, and the integrity of the Red Lake Nation. That responsibility will continue to guide every decision we make.

As we move forward, we will continue to provide you with as much information as possible while continuing to work with our staff, legal counsel, and administration to move forward in a good way. As stated in previous statements, we are committed to working together to strengthen our Nation.

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Red Lake Tribal Council

TRIBAL COUNCIL Organized April 18, 1918 (Revised Constitution & By-Laws, January 6, 1959)
CHIEF COUNCIL OF 1889: May-dway-gwa-no-nind, Nah-gaun-e-gwon-abe, Mays-co-co-caw-ay, Ahnah-me-ay-ge-shig, Naw-ay-tah-wowb; Nah-wah-quay-ge-shig