



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Midwest Regional Office

Norman Pointe II

5600 West American Boulevard, Suite 500
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437

MAY 17 2016

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Tribal Operations

The Honorable Norman W. Deschampe
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Post Office Box 217
Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633-0217

Dear President Deschampe:

We have completed our technical and legal review of the proposed amendments to the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Constitution). The proposed amendments were adopted through Tribal Executive Committee Resolutions 31-15 and 32-15, enacted on February 24, 2015.

Both Resolutions request the Secretary to call and conduct a Secretarial election in accordance with Article XII. Article XII – Amendment reads as follows:

Section 1. This constitution may be revoked by Act of Congress or amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior if at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote. No amendment shall become effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call an election when requested by two-thirds of the Tribal Executive Committee.

The intent of the proposed amendments is to allow for other Anishinabe / Chippewa / Ojibwe / Ojibway blood to be included when determining eligibility for membership. Although none of the proposed amendments appear to be contrary to federal law, we offer the following suggestions for clarity as to the Tribe's intent to amend Article II – Membership, Section 1.

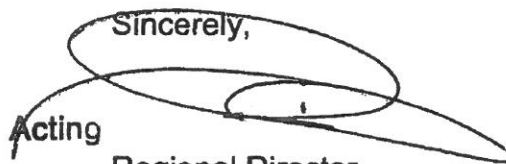
(d) The total blood degree of tribal members, enrolled before the date of the approval of this amendment, shall be corrected to include verified First Nation Anishinabe blood the tribal member may possess.

(e) The total blood degree of tribal members, enrolled on or after the date of the approval of this amendment, must possess at least one-quarter (1/4) Anishinabe / Ojibway / Chippewa blood, provided an application for enrollment is filed with the Tribal Operations Office of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe or the Enrollment Office of the Band within one year after the date of birth of such child.

(f) Any child born to a member, on or after the date of the approval of this amendment, must possess at least one-quarter (1/4) Anishinabe / Ojibway / Chippewa blood, provided an application for enrollment is filed with the Tribal Operations Office of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe or the Enrollment Office of the Band within one year after the date of birth of such child.

This concludes our review and technical comments. Please notify us in writing whether or not the Tribal Executive Committee accepts our suggestions. Upon receipt of such notification, we shall issue an authorization letter to the Superintendent, Minnesota Agency, to call and conduct an election consistent with the Secretary's election regulations at Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 81. Such authorization does not carry with it the presumption of Secretarial approval should the amendments be adopted. If adopted, the amendments will not be effective until approved by the Regional Director.

If you have any questions, please contact Sherrel LaPointe, Tribal Operations Officer, at (612) 725-4554.

Sincerely,

Acting
Regional Director

cc: ✓ Superintendent, Minnesota Agency
Field Solicitor, Twin Cities