

RESOLUTION 27-16

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee is the duly elected governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, comprised of six member reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth); and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is a confederation of aboriginal Chippewa bands, each of which was separately recognized as an Indian tribe in Treaties, Acts of Congress, and Executive Orders and by the Office of Indian Affairs and other Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the organization of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was not intended to and did not affect the status of the Tribe's constituent bands as separately recognized Indian tribes or the privileges and immunities available to them as federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, since the organization of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe its constituent bands have continued to be separately recognized as Indian tribes in Acts of Congress and by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other Federal agencies, including, among other things, through the acquisition of lands in trust for the individual bands under the Indian Reorganization Act and in entering into contracts with and providing grants and services to the individual bands by virtue of their status as Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792), and in exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs under 25 U.S.C. §§ 2 and 9 and 209 DM 8, each year the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs publishes a list of “Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs”; and

WHEREAS, in the “Notice” published in the Federal Register (Vol. 80, No. 9, p. 1942) on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs set forth “the current list of 566 tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs by virtue of their status as Indian tribes”; and

WHEREAS, at p. 1493 of the Federal Register cited above the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs stated that “The listed Indian entities are acknowledged to have the immunities and privileges available to federally recognized Indian tribes by virtue of their government-to-government relationship with the United States as well as the responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations of such tribes”; and

WHEREAS, on p. 1944 of the Federal Register cited above, the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs listed the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe *and* its six constituent bands as federally recognized tribes as follows: “Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (Six component reservations: Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band; Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band)”; and

WHEREAS, in recent months county governments and others who have previously acknowledged that the constituent bands are separately recognized Indian tribes have argued that the list of federally recognized tribes published by the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs in the Federal Register recognizes only the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and not its constituent bands as a federally recognized Indian tribe, notwithstanding the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs’ specific inclusion of each of the Tribe’s component reservations in the list; and

WHEREAS, the argument that the list of federally recognized tribes published by the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs recognizes only the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and not its constituent bands as a federally recognized Indian tribe is based on a misreading of the list and disregards the United States’ longstanding and continuous recognition of each of the constituent bands a separate federally recognized Indian tribe;

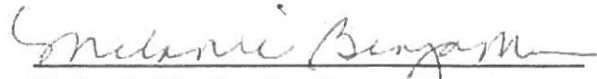
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee respectfully requests the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs revise the annual list of federally recognized Indian tribes to eliminate any confusion arising from the argument made by county governments and others based on the current list and to confirm that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and each of its constituent bands (the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); the Fond du Lac Band; the Grand Portage Band; the Leech Lake Band; the Mille Lacs Band; and the White Earth Band) are each federally recognized Indian tribes under the laws of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee requests the Assistant Secretary and the Bureau of Indian affairs revise the language in the annual list of federally recognized Indian tribes with respect to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and its constituent bands by adding the highlighted phrase in the 2016 Federal Register: “Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (Six component reservations, ***each of which continues to be separately recognized:*** Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band; Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band)”.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent, at a Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum present, held on November 9, 2015 at Vermilion, Minnesota.



Norman W. Deschampe, President
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE



Melanie Benjamin, Secretary
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE