



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

October 7, 2020

Dear Mille Lacs Band Members,

I hope this letter finds you and yours doing well. Our thoughts and prayers are with those families who have lost loved ones related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to you about a very urgent matter. In recent months, Economic Support payments have been made to adult Band Members to assist with economic hardship Band Members are facing due to COVID-19. My top priority as Commissioner of Finance is to ensure that during these difficult times, **all Band Members continue to receive any assistance and support you are entitled to receive under federal and Band law.**

The Band has been carefully following federal guidance in making these payments. To protect Band Members, **we are now required to collect the enclosed form from every adult Band Member to ensure you remain eligible for future payments**, and to protect your payment from being taxable by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Please take time today to complete and return this form by October 16th, using the return addressed postage paid envelope, or email a copy of it to DaniJo.Harkness@millelacsband.com, or fax it to 320-532-5402.

Also, please read the form very carefully. Note that if you check the **first box**, you are stating you **have** been negatively impacted by COVID-19 so you will **continue to be eligible** for any future COVID-19 Economic Support payments. If you check the **second box**, you are stating you **have not** been negatively impacted and you will **not be eligible** for any future payments, and you will forfeit any of the \$500 amounts previously withheld.

Unfortunately, the Band may be unable to make future payments to those who do not fill out this form. We do not want that to happen to any Band Member. To ensure these forms are collected, the Band may be required to withhold up to \$500 of all future COVID-19 Economic Support payments and/or Stimulus payment from those who do not return the form by October 16th. This amount will be added to future payments only after receipt of the form by the Mille Lacs Band Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Your protection and security is of utmost importance to the Band. We are proud to serve and assist Band Members during this time.

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Mel Towle, Commissioner of Finance

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