LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

Faron Jackson Sr, Chairman
Arthur LaRose, Secretary-Treasurer
Robbie Howe, District I Representative
Steve White, District II Representative
LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III, District III Representative

Employees of the Band,

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every aspect of our normal day to day routines. The council has faced some very tough decisions in the past few weeks and the decision in regards to continued employment of our workers has weighed heavily on our minds.

When the decision was made to shut down all non-essential operations and move the majority of our staff to administrative leave, we knew it was not sustainable beyond the short term. We had much to discuss and more to figure out in regards to unemployment insurance and protecting our workforce from financial burden.

We are confident that our administration has worked out the details of this drastic measure and that the financial impacts to almost all of our employees will be minimal. The details regarding unemployment in the \$2 trillion dollar stimulus package signed into law last week was exactly the assurance we needed to make sure our employees would be taken care of. This federal benefit will pay a flat \$600 per week in addition to unemployment benefits provided by the state.

For many of our workers, this may mean your unemployment benefits will actually be higher than the wages you would have received working full-time. A conservative estimate shows that you will receive approximately 50% of your wages, plus an additional \$600.

Therefore, beginning April 5, 2020, all Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe non-essential employees will be temporarily laid-off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once this crisis is resolved and it is deemed safe to return to normal operations, the LLRTC will recall affected employees back to their respective areas of work responsibility. We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our community.

Employees are encouraged to apply for Minnesota UI at their website: www.uimn.org

Please review the attached documents for instructions on completing the application for MN unemployment insurance. For any questions regarding unemployment or benefits, please contact LLBO Human Resources at 218-335-3698.

Miigwech,

Faron Jackson Sr

Chairman

Arthur "Archie" LaRose

Secretary-Treasurer

Robbie Howe

District | Representative

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District II Representative

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