

RED LAKE BAND
of CHIPPEWA INDIANS
RED LAKE NATION HEADQUARTERS



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August 22, 2024

Michael Connors
Chief, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
U.S. Co-Chair of the Jay Treaty Border
Alliance
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Jennifer Porter
Chairwoman, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
U.S. Co-Chair of the Jay Treaty Border
Alliance
142 Co Rd 38A
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Re: Red Lake Band of Chippewa Jay Treaty Border Alliance Membership

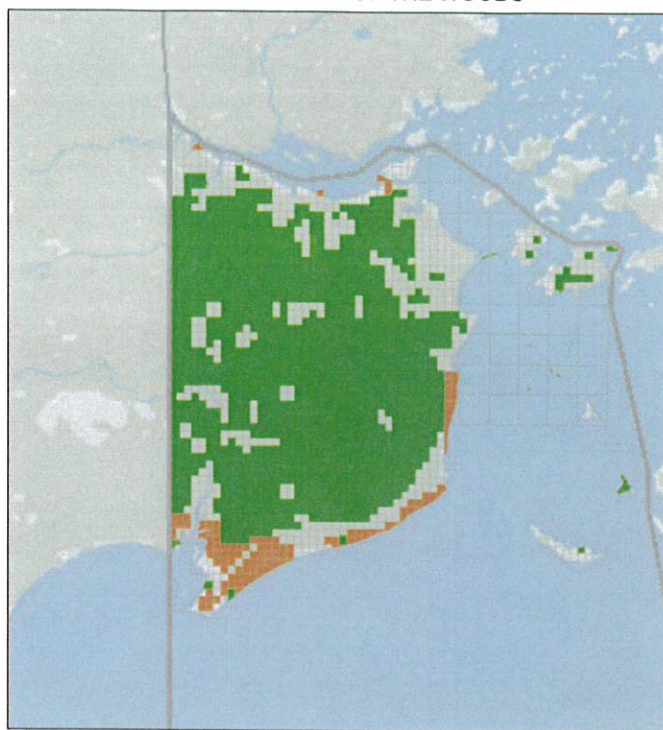
Dear Jay Treaty Border Alliance Co-Chairs:

I am writing on behalf of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Red Lake or the Band), a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Northern Minnesota along the United States-Canada border, to express our support for the work of the Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA or Coalition). Please also consider this letter our formal request to become a member of the Coalition.

The Red Lake Band has over 17,000 members who call our 840,000-acre Reservation located in northern Minnesota home. As it pertains to the U.S.-Canadian border, 53,251 acres of our Reservation is in the Northwest Angle of Minnesota (the Angle), which is the most northerly part of the lower 48 states. *See Figure 1 noting the location of Red Lake Reservation lands in the Angle.* Red Lake Band members often travel to the Angle for the essential purposes of harvesting wild rice, gathering medicines and berries, fishing, and hunting in conformity with our Treaty rights.

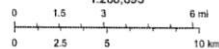
While it is possible to access these lands via water across Lake of the Woods without leaving the State of Minnesota, seasonal weather conditions, physical limitations of some Band members, and the fact that not all Tribal members own boats makes passage by water an inconsistent and often unsafe option. As a result, we encourage Tribal members to access the Angle by first crossing the U.S.-Canada border at the Warroad, United States/Sprague, Canada port of entry or the Roseau, United States/South Junction, Canada port of entry by road before reentering the United States at the Angle.

RED LAKE / LAKE OF THE WOODS



8/4/2020, 3:47:34 PM

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Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, Garmin, HERE, OpenStreetMap, and other contributors, Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA, NADIC, and other contributors

Red Lake Engineering | THPO
CHS, Esri, Delorme, NaturalView | CHS, NOAA OCS, Esri, Delorme |

It is important to note that our Band members are only crossing the border to access our own homelands. However, when our Band members return to United States, Section 289 of Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1359) requires them to prove their blood quantum. This question is inherently offensive. Blood quantum is an outdated weapon of the termination era and undermines the sovereign rights of Tribal governments.

As federal law recognizes the right of Indian tribes to establish their own standards for citizenship, including methods that do not rely on blood quantum (*See Santa Clara Pueblo v. Martinez*, 436 U.S. 49 (1978)), 8 U.S.C. § 1359 is inconsistent with federal law because it relies on blood quantum as a measure of tribal affiliation, rather than proof of membership in a federally recognized tribe.

Moreover, Canada does not recognize the Jay Treaty and therefore does not acknowledge a "right of entry" for our Band members. This particularly impacted our Band members during the COVID-19 pandemic when Band members could not safely travel to the Angle to check on their homes and exercise Treaty rights that provide them with nutritious, traditional foods throughout the year.

The Red Lake Band recognizes the work the Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA) is doing to uphold the inherent right of Red Lake Band members to cross the border to access our own homelands

without facing undue discrimination. For this reason, we are writing to request that the Red Lake Band formally become a member of the JTBA, assist in advocacy that protects our inherent rights to cross the United States-Canada border, and to promote the culture, general welfare, economic activities, and social advancement of the Red Lake Band members. With this letter, the Red Lake Tribal Council furthermore authorizes the JTBA to use our Tribal logo on the JTBA's website and other documents.

Chi miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell G. Seki Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Darrell G. Seki Sr.
Chairman
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians