

## Lac du Flambeau Tribe Statement On Temporary Roads Access



LAC DU FLAMBEAU—MARCH 13, 2023—The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians offered the following statement on issuing temporary access permits that allow roads with expired easements to re-open as part of a temporary agreement with the Town of Lac du Flambeau.

“The Tribe has agreed to provide temporary access permits to the Town of Lac du Flambeau to open the roads with expired easements to provide a window of opportunity for the Town and the Title Companies to make a viable offer to get this situation resolved,” Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians President John D. Johnson, Sr. said. “The permits are in 30-day increments and the Tribal Council has only authorized three total (90 days) for each road.”

“To be crystal clear, the Tribe still expects compensation for unauthorized land use and disregard of our private property,” President Johnson said. “This includes expenses incurred over 10 years as well as terms to protect Tribal Lands from unauthorized use, so future generations of Tribal Membership can live peacefully without worry.”

“We hope this encourages impacted property owners to press for immediate action by the Town and the involved Title Insurance Companies to resolve this matter,” President Johnson said.

“More specifically, the Tribe believes the involved Title Insurance Companies and Town are financially responsible,” President Johnson said. “The Tribe also believes the involved Title Insurance Companies and Town know they are financially responsible. With this in mind, it makes sense as to why the involved Title Insurance Companies and Town have low-balled the Tribe in the negotiations and seemingly misled individual property owners. This leaves individual property owners on the hook financially while the involved Title Insurance Companies and Town portray themselves as being on the side of the property owners. In fact, it appears the fox is watching the hen house.”

“Furthermore, both the Town and the involved Title Insurance Companies have disregarded our Tribal Sovereignty,” President Johnson said. “This is important because our Tribal Sovereignty allows us to set and enforce laws and regulations on our land to preserve and protect the 12-by-12 square mile reservation we have remaining after ceding millions of acres of land to the federal government. Tribal Sovereignty is a political status recognized by the federal government, protected by the U.S. Constitution, and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.”

“The Town and the involved Title Insurance Companies, and in some cases realtors who sold unknowing property owners land without clear title, appear to have ignored or disregarded the private property rights associated with Tribal Lands,” President Johnson said. “This likely influenced the Town and Title Companies decisions on whether they would negotiate in good faith, meaning they accept and take responsibility for their actions or inactions in informing property owners of easements.”

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**Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians**

John D. Johnson, Sr., President

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