

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



LDF Tribal Council Calls for Regional Approach to Drug Abuse and Violence

LAC DU FLAMBEAU—FEBRUARY 9, 2018—Following the release of criminal complaints for suspects in the Wayne Valliere, Jr. murder, the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council issued the following statement.

“Drug abuse and violence is a regional problem in northern Wisconsin and we need to work together as a region to stop it.”

“This type of activity is precisely the reason the Tribe recently held a meeting with officials and agencies from Iron, Oneida and Vilas Counties to discuss the need for a joint effort to fight drug abuse and violence in the Tri-County region.”

Lac du Flambeau Tribe hosted a meeting January 19 with key players from Oneida, Vilas, and Iron counties in hopes of building a collaborative effort to conquer drug issues within our region. Those in attendance included: Judges, District Attorneys, County Sheriffs, Jail Administrators, and County Supervisors, LDF Town Chair, FBI, US Attorney General, and the Tribal Council.

After the meeting, the Tribal Council passed a resolution to approve of the Tribe supporting the expansion of the Tribal Action Plan “TAP” to include a Tri-County effort to combat drugs. The resolution supports the efforts of all three counties and will engage joint efforts in all sectors of need.

“The Lac du Flambeau Tribe would like to thank all county and federal officials who attended the meeting. We were encouraged by the interest and participation of the county officials and agencies at that meeting who showed a willingness to join forces to keep all of our communities safe. We are hopeful the Tri-County approach moves forward. This is an issue that impacts our entire region.”

Attached is a draft resolution the Tribe drafted following the January 19 Tri-County meeting. The draft resolution was submitted to each County to help facilitate a commitment to the urgent need for regional cooperation in fighting drug abuse and violence.

“Over the years, the Tribe has advocated and pursued strong enforcement and strong prosecution of criminals. The Tribe has not seen an increase in gangs residing on the reservation. But the Tribe believes gangs are bringing criminal activity into the Tri-County region.”

“Our community continues to mourn the loss of this young man, Wayne Valliere, Jr., and cooperate fully with the investigation into his death, We are grateful for the support of everyone working to help community members through this difficult time and to ensure justice is served.”

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Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Joseph Wildcat, Sr., President

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