

Lac Vieux Desert Band Of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Government
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Executive Officers:

James Williams Jr., Tribal Chairman
Samuel Klingman, Tribal Vice-Chairman
Patrick Garrison, Tribal Treasurer
Roxann McGeshick, Tribal Secretary



Council Members:

Patrick Hazen II
Jeffery McGeshick
Tyrone McGeshick
Henry Smith
Keith Williams

To: Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Members and the Surrounding Community

Re: Community Guidance, Safety, and Tribal Position Regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Activity

The Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Council issues this statement with deep concern in light of recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions that have impacted Native people across the United States. These events have caused fear, confusion, and justified outrage within Indian Country. As Native people and as citizens of the United States, our identity, our citizenship, and our presence on our homelands or within the United States should never be questioned, challenged, or used as grounds for detention or intimidation. The Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Council firmly states that we do not support ICE actions taken against Native people, nor actions rooted in racial profiling, fear, or disregard for Tribal sovereignty and human dignity.

In these uncertain times, we believe strongly that our community's strength lies in unity, knowledge, and collective care. If you are approached by ICE or any federal agents, we urge you to remain calm. You have the right to ask for identification and to know which agency is engaging you. You are not required to answer questions about your citizenship, tribal affiliation, or place of birth, and you have the right to remain silent. You may clearly state, "I choose to remain silent and wish to speak with an attorney."

You are not required to consent to searches of your person, vehicle, or home. Do not open your door unless agents present a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. Administrative warrants issued by ICE do not authorize entry into a home. If a warrant is presented, take time to read it carefully to ensure it is properly signed and specific.

We strongly encourage community members to carry their Tribal identification or other valid government-issued ID, whenever possible. If you do not currently have a valid Tribal ID, we encourage you to contact the Tribal Enrollment Office, where our staff can assist you in obtaining one. The Tribal Council has waived the fee for duplicate/renewed Tribal IDs. Having identification readily available and offering it if approached by ICE may help reduce unnecessary escalation or prolonged encounters. Staying prepared and informed is an important way we can help protect ourselves and one another during uncertain times.

This is a moment for us to come together as a community and care for one another. We encourage everyone to stay informed through official Tribal communications and trusted sources, and to remain mindful of how misinformation can spread fear and division. Please check

on our elders and our children, support our families, and extend compassion to neighbors who may feel vulnerable. Our people have remained strong by standing together, guided by our Seven Grandfather Teachings. These teachings continue to guide us as we move forward together.

The Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Council will continue to actively monitor these developments and remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting our people, our lands, and our sovereignty. We will continue to stand firm, speak out, and advocate for the safety and rights of our community.

If the need arises to report an encounter with ICE, or you have other questions or concerns, we provide the following list of contacts for your use so the Tribe can remain informed and responsive.

- Lac Vieux Desert Law Enforcement: 906.358.4313
- Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Chairman's Office: 906.358.4577, ext. 4102
- Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Enrollment Department: 906.385.4577, ext. 4123
- Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Legal Department: 906.358.4577, ext. 4127