

REVISED

STATE OF MINNESOTA



TIM WALZ
GOVERNOR

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Melanie Benjamin

43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
County of Mille Lacs
Congressional District 8

RECEIVED

FEB 21 2020

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

Public Member

MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

Effective: September 4, 2019

Term Expires: January 4, 2021

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, September 5, 2019.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz".

Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Pinn".

Secretary of State

Replacing: Joseph Johnson III

Application for the position Public Member

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Housing Finance Agency
Position: Public Member

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Melanie Benjamin
Phone: (320) 532-7486
County: Mille Lacs
In House District: 15A
S House District: 8
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: True

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Part V: Signature

Signature: Melanie Benjamin
Date: 7/30/2019 3:31:48 PM

RECEIVED

FEB 21 2020

President of the Senate



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

July 30, 2019

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

I am writing to submit my application for your consideration for the open position on the Minnesota Housing board. As the Chief Executive/Chairwoman of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, I have experienced first-hand the outstanding work and services provided by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to provide affordable housing for American Indian people.

Despite growth in economic development over the past three decades, Minnesota has among the highest rates in the nation for homeless or under-housed American Indian families and individuals. Through innovating financing, programs and collaborative opportunities with tribal governments, Minnesota Housing has provided critical support and financing opportunities for affordable and low-income housing for Indian people.

As Chairwoman/Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band, I have significant experience with housing issues. At Mille Lacs, have been focused on innovative new programs and services to emphasize home ownership rather than rental. One very successful program has been our no-interest loans for Band Members, which we are very proud of being able to offer, along with a new development that will be a substance-free neighborhood and available for Band Member home ownership.

I have also served for many years on the Finance Corporation of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCTFC). Our mission is to finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing and economic development opportunities for low and moderate income Band members, and sustain healthy communities within our service area. Additionally, I have worked very closely with Indian Housing Liaison Rick Smith, of Minnesota Housing, for many years and am very appreciate of his outstanding work and contributions to Indian tribes and people.

RECEIVED
FEB 21 2020

It would be my honor to serve on the Minnesota Housing Board and have an opportunity to further advance the work of providing all Minnesotans with safe, affordable housing.

President of the Senate

Sincerely,

Melanie Benjamin
Chief Executive

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-4181 • Fax (320) 532-4209

DISTRICT II
36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (218) 768-3903

DISTRICT IIA
2605 Chiminising Drive • Isle, MN 56342
(320) 676-1102 • Fax (320) 676-3432

DISTRICT III
45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(320) 384-6240 • Fax (320) 384-6190

URBAN OFFICE
1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1257

Melanie Ann Benjamin
Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

melaniecorn@frontiernet.net
14685 Shakopee Lake Road
Onamia, MN 56359

320-828-2095 Cell
320-532-8093 Home
320-532-5611 Fax

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Executive/Tribal Chairman

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Elected 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
June 2012 - Current

Interim Director

Pine Grove Leadership Academy, Sandstone, MN
Executing and administering the policies of the School as set by Board of Directors, administer all personal, financial and marketing management responsibilities.

RECEIVED

FEB 21 2020

District III Women's Talking Circle and Leadership Training

Coordinating activities and education to empower women to assume leadership responsibilities in their community and family environments, current.

President of the Senate

Consultant

Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN), current.

Key Accomplishments:

- Elevated the organization nationally as a premier training and networking organization
- Secured sponsorships and grants for the organization

Enumerator, Crew Leader Assistant, Crew Leader

United States Census Bureau, April 2010-July 2010. Temporary Part time. Onamia, MN

Chief Executive/Tribal Chairman

Elected Chief Executive for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for three four- year terms in 2000, 2004 and 2008 July 2000 – October 8, 2008. Onamia, MN

Key Accomplishments:

- Introduced and passed into law the Net Revenue Allocation Schedule which set designated budgets for entire government

- Increased gross revenues from Band owned business by 110 million dollars over FY2000 levels
- Initiated the first Referendum on Bonus payments and Band Budget
- Increased shareholder distribution
- Implemented Elder Supplemental Income
- First-ever Elder trips, organized Elder specific meetings
- Created first-ever Elder Advisory Council for the Chief Executive's office
- Decreased Corporate Commission budget by 70 percent and implemented tight controls with no negative impact on the organization
- Brought Band members government budgets for the first time for community input
- Created first ever Youth Tribal Council
- Defended Band members against unfair taxes by State
- First modern Chief Executive to start regular community Talking Circles
- First Chief to hold regular urban area meetings for Band members
- Created Mille Lacs Tribal College
- Initiated creation of Gaming Regulatory Authority Commission
- Fast-tracked creation of Boxing Commission
- Increased college scholarship program for Band members
- Opened first tribal operated Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) office in the Minneapolis/St. Paul service area
- Increased home ownership opportunities for Band members
- Established strong government to government relationship with State and Federal agencies and government
- Evaluated the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as one of the most progressive Tribes in the State and Nation

Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley, Minnesota 1994-1995 (One year appointment)

RECEIVED

Commissioner of Administration

Appointed and ratified for two four-year terms and served as Chief of Staff to Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow and Chief Executive Marge Anderson July 1989 – June 1997.
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia, Minnesota

FEB 21 2020

President of the Senate

Key Accomplishments:

- Updated personal policies for Tribal Government
- Implemented first retirement benefits for Band employees
- Increased indirect cost benefits for Tribal Government
- Increased grants for Tribal Government
- Partnered with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide housing services
- First-ever reservation law enforcement agreement signed into law with the State of Minnesota

Small Business Management Instructor

Itaska Community College 1988 one quarter employment.
Leech Lake site, Cass Lake, Minnesota

Business Development Specialist

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Cass Lake, Minnesota, June 1988- June 1989.

Key Accomplishments:

- Provide Business Plan development and technical assistance to current and potential business owners

EDUCATION

Earned **Master of Education** from the University of Minnesota Duluth; Duluth, Minnesota

Earned **Bachelor of Science** degree in **Business Administration** with a concentration in Management; Bemidji, Minnesota

Earned **Clerk Typist certificate** from the Minneapolis Area Vocational Technical Institution; Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Professional Boards

Current:

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee
Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN)
Indian Law Resource Center
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
Native American Finance Officers Association
National Indian Gaming Association
Duluth Indian Legal Services
Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
U.S. Attorney General's Tribal Nations Leadership Council
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation

RECEIVED

FEB 21 2020

President of the Senate

Past:

Chair of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee for the Federal Home Loan Band of Des Moines
National Indian Gaming Association, Treasurer
Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, Secretary
Indian Health Service Self Governance Advisory Committee
Indian Health Service Diabetes Committee
Governor's Roundtable for Sustainability (appointed by Governor Arne Carlson)
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Vice-President
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Legislative Sub-committee
Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs Task Force
Woodlands National Bank Board of Directors
Council of Indian Students, Bemidji State University
Indian Law Support Center
Local Indian Education Committee

Professional Training

Executive Coaching, current

The Art of Giving, Natives into Philanthropy, March 2010

Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program, completion September 2010

Rapport Leadership International, Leadership Breakthrough I, completion March 2006

RECEIVED

FEB 21 2020

President of the Senate