

**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**  
**7500 Odawa Circle**  
**Harbor Springs, MI 49740**

**TRIBAL RESOLUTION # 050522-Q1**  
**Protect our Anishinaabe Kwewok, and Awareness for**  
**Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

**WHEREAS** the Waganakising Odawak Nation, known as the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and its citizens are vested with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance;

**WHEREAS** the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621);

**WHEREAS** the Directive Principles of the Tribal Constitution, adopted February 2, 2005, states as follows: *Promote with special care the health, educational and economic interests of all the people, especially our children and elders, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation;*

**WHEREAS** Anishinaabek Peoples believe water is life, water is sacred, it is alive, and it provides life. Anishinaabe Kwewok (Native Women) as the keepers of the water are sacred, and have the responsibility to pass on their knowledge and understanding of water;

**WHEREAS** Anishinaabek Kwewok, (American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN), experience among the highest rates violence in the United States, more than half (55%) of all American Indian and Alaskan Native, women will be victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, and four (4) out of five (5) AI/AN women or girls will encounter violence in their lifetime;

**WHEREAS** according to the Indian Law Resource Center and the National Institute of Justice, the majority of AI/AN women or girls victims have experienced violence at the hands of at non-Indians, who reportedly commit the vast majority (96%) of sexual violence against AI/AN women or girls.

**WHEREAS** the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) reported that murder is the third leading cause of death for AI/AN women and girls between the ages of ten (10) and twenty-four (24), and a federal study reported that AI/AN women are ten (10) times more likely to be murdered than non-AI/AN women and girls;

**WHEREAS** through tribal communities and grassroot efforts, general awareness is being brought to the plight of Murdered, Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW);

**WHEREAS** in order for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe (LTBB) to continue to protect our Anishinaabe Kwewok, LTBB needs to work together and support grassroots efforts, other tribal nations and organizations such as Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, Native Justice Coalition, Sovereign Bodies Institute, StrongHearts Native Helpline, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA (MMIW USA);

**WHEREAS** in order for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe (LTBB) to continue to protect our Anishinaabe Kwewok, LTBB needs to establish a task force, to coordinate efforts between Department of Human Services, Tribal Law Enforcement, Judiciary, and members of the Tribal Community for data collection and create specialty services to protect Anishinaabe Kwewok;

**WHEREAS** in order for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe (LTBB) to continue to protect our Anishinaabe Kwewok, LTBB needs to acknowledge and defend all sites culturally relevant to women and children, and places where women and children have been murdered or gone missing, as sacred sites;

**WHEREAS** in order for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe (LTBB) to continue to protect our Anishinaabe Kwewok, LTBB needs to seek out grant funds to employ a MMIW coordinator, that would provide outreach, awareness and education of MMIW, and develop a plan to prevent and protect MMIW.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians to protect the lives of our Anishinaabe Kwewok, through collaboration between the Tribe, the Department of Human Services and grassroots organizations, tribal nations and other organizations such as Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Native Justice Coalition, Sovereign Bodies Institute, StrongHearts Native Helpline, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA (MMIW USA).

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians to protect the lives of our Anishinaabe Kwewok, shall establish a task force, to coordinate efforts between Department of Human Services, Tribal Law Enforcement, Judiciary, and members of Tribal Council, and members of the Tribal Community for data collection and create specialty services to protect Anishinaabe Kwewok.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians to protect the lives of our Anishinaabe Kwewok, shall direct the Tribal Historical Preservation Officer to acknowledge and defend all sites culturally relevant to women and children, and places where women and children have been murdered or gone missing, as sacred sites.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians to protect the lives of our Anishinaabe Kwewok, shall have the Grants Office to seek out grant funds to employ a MMIW coordinator, that would provide outreach, awareness and education of MMIW, and develop a plan to prevent and protect MMIW.

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians to protect the lives of our Anishinaabe Kwewok, will acknowledge **May 5th** as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

**CERTIFICATION**

As the Tribal Council Legislative Leader and Tribal Council Secretary, we certify that this Tribal Resolution was duly adopted by the Tribal Council of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians at a regular meeting of the Tribal Council held on May 5, 2022 at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent as recorded by this roll call:

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Fred Kiogima	X			
Tamara Kiogima				X
William Ortiz				X
Aaron Otto	X			
Melissa Pamp				X
Martin Van De Car	X			
Leroy Shomin	X			
Marcella Reyes	X			
Emily Proctor	X			

Date: 5.5.2022

Emily Proctor  
Emily Proctor, Legislative Leader

Date: 5.5.2022

Marcella R. Reyes  
Marcella Reyes, Tribal Secretary

Received by the Executive Office on 5.6.2022 by Kirstin Diney

Pursuant to Article VII, Section D, Subsection 1 of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Constitution adopted on February 1, 2005 the Executive concurs in this action of the Tribal Council.

Date: 5-10-2022

Regina Gasco-Bentley  
Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Chairperson

Received from the Executive on 05.11.2022 by [Signature]