Red Lake Nation

Chairman Seki and the Tribal Council

15484 Migizi Drive

Red Lake, MN 56671

January 31, 2024

Boozhoo Chairman Seki and the Red Lake Nation Tribal Council:

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Emily Thabes, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Beltrami County Historical Society. I am writing to you on behalf of our organization, seeking permission and collaboration to continue displaying artifacts from the Red Lake Nation within our historical collections.

In the mid-1960s, the Beltrami County Historical Society received a generous donation of artifacts from Mr. John G. Morrison, Jr. Several items, comprising a significant collection of Red Lake Nation artistry, history, and cultural artifacts, have since been curated and displayed to educate and inspire visitors about the rich heritage of the Red Lake Nation. This letter seeks your formal permission to maintain these displays, ensuring that we adhere to the latest requirements under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

We wish to emphasize that the artifacts on exhibit do not meet the definition of sacred objects or grave goods, and we recognize the importance of respecting certain cultural items' sacred and sensitive nature. We intend to preserve and showcase these artifacts with the utmost respect and cultural sensitivity, aligning our practices with the evolving standards set forth by NAGPRA.

We understand the significance of these cultural materials to the Red Lake Nation and are committed to fostering a collaborative and respectful relationship. If necessary, we are open to further discussions to address any concerns or considerations you may have regarding the ongoing display of these artifacts.

The Beltrami County Historical Society is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of all communities within our region, and we believe that these artifacts contribute significantly to the educational mission of our institution. We value the opportunity to continue showcasing the artistry, history, and cultural richness of the Red Lake Nation to our visitors, and we seek your formal approval to do so.

Please let us know if specific procedures or additional information are required to proceed with this request. We are open to any dialogue that ensures the respectful and responsible management of these cultural artifacts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of working together to continue preserving and sharing the heritage of the Red Lake Nation.

Miigwech,

Emily Thabes

Executive Director

Beltrami County Historical Society

Enc.: List of artifacts attributed to Red Lake Nation currently on exhibit.