



# LEECH LAKE BAND of OJIBWE

4/10/2024

## LEECH LAKE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- Crime Prevention
- Animal Control
- Underage Drinking Enforcement
- Traffic Enforcement
- Meth Awareness
- Data Records Management
- Bicycle Safety
- Criminal Investigations
- Narcotics Investigations
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Investigations
- Predatory Offender Crimes
- K9 Division
- School Resource Enforcement
- Casino Gaming Enforcement
- Crimes Against Children
- Emergency Management

Chief of Police  
Kenneth Washington

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee

Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in northern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Often creating the need for the Bemidji Office to send items to St. Paul to complete testing that is not done in the Bemidji laboratory.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is equally critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having a laboratory located more proximally to our agency creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations and it's critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely

*Kenneth Washington*

Kenneth Washington

Leech Lake Tribal Police Chief

# Letter of support

Final Audit Report

2024-04-10

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