



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

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March 15, 2019

Dear Members of Ginoogaming First Nation,

As our fiscal 2019 year draws to a close, I wanted to reach out to communicate a brief update from your Recipient Appointed Advisor Team. We are long overdue for a community meeting, and I will be working with Chief and Council to schedule a time to meet with you in person to deliver a community finance update.

For the moment, I'd like to review the progress your community has made under the direction of Chief and Council.

Date	Total Current Liabilities	Difference over Prior Year
March 31, 2017	\$6,318,952	Decrease of \$1,918,675
March 31, 2018	\$6,976,875	Increase of \$657,923
March 12, 2019 (Present)	\$5,819,390	Decrease of \$1,157,485

Chief and council have tasked my team and I with an intense focus on reducing the debt load of the First Nation, and seeking a favourable position so the community can continue to advance. This is a very large task, but this year incredible progress has been made. We still have a long way to go.

It's also been tough. A lot of hard and difficult decisions needed to be made, including ceasing all donations. This decision was not entered into lightly, but it was done because your council has a unified stance on moving forward. As a team, I can assure you that we are aware of how difficult this has been on some of you, and we appreciate that there is financial hardship being experienced by some members.

As part of the 2019-2020 RAA Mandate, we will be putting in educational opportunities for those wishing to further their understanding of personal finances, including tips for budgeting, reducing expenses, preparing for the unexpected and being in control of your own financial situation.

Looking at the numbers above, I am filled with hope. I can see this community flourishing. In order to do so, any and all funding received by the community must be used to run mandated programs and any residual funds are strictly used to reduce the debts of the First Nation.

The most critical and important point in all of this is, ***the community band office is not a place that is a suitable option for financial assistance.*** Each and every day, having to turn down donation requests puts strain on your hardworking Chief and Council and undermines the incredible progress they have made. **In short, please don't ask for money.** As you can see above, the community is still nearly \$6 million in debt, and simply does not have the financial resources to assist individual community members.

As a team, we are seeking to strive towards a vision that has operational programs to support community members, rather than direct financial handouts.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for your support over these last 18 months. I couldn't be prouder at the progress that has been made, and I'm excited to see what the future holds.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadia La Russa', written in a cursive style.

Nadia La Russa, MBA
Recipient Appointed Advisor