

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



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MAR 29 2021

Governor Tim Walz

President of the Senate

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Melanie Benjamin

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

Public Member

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

Effective: March 30, 2021

Expires: January 6, 2025

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 25, 2021.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Reappointment

Filed on March 25, 2021
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State,
Steve Simon

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
Mn House District: 15A
US House District: 8
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

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

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

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Veteran: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: Melanie Benjamin
Date: 1/29/2021 8:37:26 AM

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Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Executive Branch


January 29, 2021

Dear Governor Walz,

Thank you for appointing me to serve on the Minnesota Housing Finance Board during this past term. I am very interested in serving another term in this position, and would be honored if you would consider re-appointing me to this position.

My resume is attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at (320) 333-9609.

Thank you,


Melanie Benjamin

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MELANIE ANN BENJAMIN

14685 Shakopee Lake Road ◊ Onamia, MN 56359 ◊ melaniecorn@frontiernet.net
Cell 320-828-2095 ◊ Home 320-532-8093

----- EXECUTIVE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE -----

Chief Executive/Tribal Chairwoman, 2000-2021

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Elected to 5 consecutive four-year terms in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016. The highest elected official in the Executive Branch of Band government, the Chief Executive is responsible for executing the policies and laws of the Mille Lacs Band, conducts all external government relations and oversees the Executive Branch, which employs more than 800 employees.

Vice President of Administration and Finance, 1997

Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Served in a special one-year appointment as Vice President charged with overseeing administrative and financial operations of Grand Casino Hinckley.

Commissioner of Administration, 1989 - 1997

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Appointed and ratified for two four-year terms to serve as Chief of Staff to Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow and Chief Executive Marge Anderson July 1989 – June 1997. Charged with developing the biennial budget for Band government, leading the Administration Policy Board and representing the interests of the Chief Executive as assigned.

----- OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE -----

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.

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.

Consultant

Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN). Provided consultancy services to Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations, an organization which I co-founded with other women tribal leaders. Elevated the organization nationally as a premier training and networking

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organization for Native American women, and secured sponsorships and grants for the organization.

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.

----- 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 BOARD MEMBERSHIP, CURRENT -----

Secretary, Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Secretary, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
U.S. Attorney General's Tribal Nations Leadership Council
Co-Chair of MN State Colleges and Universities Tribal Nations Advisory Task Force
Alternate, National Indian Gaming Association
Co-Chair, Native American Policy Group, Hillary Clinton for America Campaign
Treasurer, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN)
Indian Law Resource Center
Minnesota Board on Aging
Indian Legal Services

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----- PROFESSIONAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP, PAST ----- MAR 29 2021

Minnesota Board on Aging
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Co-Chair, Leadership Circle for the White House Project
American Civil Liberties Union
Chair, Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, Federal Home Loan Board of Des Moines
Treasurer, National Indian Gaming Association
Secretary, Minnesota Indian Gaming Association
Indian Health Service Self Governance Advisory Committee
Indian Health Service Diabetes Committee
Governor's Roundtable for Sustainability (appointed by Governor Arne Carlson)
Vice President, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

President of the Council

Chair, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Housing and Finance Sub-committee
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
Local Indian Education Committee
Corporate Commissioner of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

----- PROFESSIONAL TRAINING -----

Executive Coaching
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

-----AWARDS & RECOGNITION -----

Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award, National Indian Gaming Association, 2015
Great Women of Indian Gaming, 2005
Jay Silverheels Achievement Award, National Center for American Indian Enterprise
Development, 2005
Norman Crooks Memorial Eagle Feather Award, Minnesota Indian Gaming Association
Outstanding Indian Student, Bemidji State University

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