



The Beacon Hill Institute
for
Public Policy Research

News Release

8 Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts
02108-2770
phone: 617.573.8750
fax: 617.994.4279
email: bhi@beaconhill.org
web site:
www.beaconhill.org

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Contact:
Douglas J. Meyenburg, Jr
763-843-1039

Study: Minnesota's Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa does not live in poverty. On average, their income is on par with Mille Lacs County as a whole.

(BOSTON -July 23 2012) An extensive income analysis by the Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University finds that Chippewa Band families and households, on average, are not living in poverty. The finding does not justify the expansion of fishing, hunting and gathering rights to meet the income needs of the Chippewa Band.

The average incomes of the Chippewa Band are well above several measures of low and moderate income used by federal agencies and a local Minnesota group. Moreover, while the average incomes of Chippewa Band's smaller families and households continue to trail those of Mille Lacs County as a whole, the incomes of the Chippewa Band's larger families outpace those of Mille Lacs County as a whole.

The income statistics are important because they address issues resulting from a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1999 that enabled to court to exercise jurisdiction in a treaty case dating back to 1847. While the court upheld the right of the Chippewa "equal" and apportionable share of the take of fish in the treaty areas" how exactly to define "moderate standard of living" underpinning the cap on fishing and hunting has been unclear.

2006-2010: Five-Year Average Family and Household Income (\$)

	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
Median Family Income				
Chippewa Band	NA	40,096	57,763	64,250
Mille Lacs County	NA	49,049	54,318	63,110
Difference	NA	-8,953	3,445	1,140
Median Household Income				
Chippewa Band	17,500	43,523	58,984	70,809
Mille Lacs County	21,946	52,591	58,708	65,737
Difference	-4,446	-9,068	276	5,072

Using federal data, BHI concluded by examining both family and household income that the Chippewa Band has achieved incomes that cannot be considered low and are on par with the local population as a whole. While some disparities exist among single and two person households such gaps evaporate when comparing larger household.

The Minnesota organization Proper Economic Resource Management (PERM) commissioned the Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University (BHI) to assess the standard of living for the Chippewa Band members relative to income levels commensurate with common measures of moderate living standards.