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**RESOLUTION NO. 17-123**

**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BECAUSE OF  
THE ABUSE OF METHAMPHETAMINE, HEROIN, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS**

**WHEREAS**, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (“Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. 461, *et. seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board serves as the governing body of Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article V, Section 1(h) of the Amended Lac Courte Oreilles Constitution, the Governing Board has the authority to engage in any business that will further the social or economic well-being of members of the tribe or undertake any programs or projects designed for the economic advancement of the people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board has the authority and the responsibility to provide for the safety, health and welfare of its members and over its territory within the exterior boundaries of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board is aware of the devastation caused by the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, and the Tribal Governing Board has been informed of additional and far reaching negative consequences of the many tribal members who have become addicted to methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby finds that the following devastating effects, among others, have resulted from the massive abuse by tribal members of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs: deaths by drug overdose; the breakdown of family networks; child neglect and abandonment; disproportionate criminal incarcerations of tribal members stemming from drug addiction; and the

diminishment of the dignity of individual tribal members and ultimately the diminishment of the integrity of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby finds that all members of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, and beyond, have a stake in solving the huge and complex public health problem presented by the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs, and that our spirit and our culture gives us strength and guidance to overcome these challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby finds that in order to address this public health epidemic, our communities and its members must be educated with respect to the devastation resulting from the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby finds that it is imperative to repair the devastation caused by the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs through collaboration of tribal resources and programs including, but not limited to, the following: education, public health, law enforcement, child protection, chemical dependency, legal services, human services, mental health and community involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Governing Board recognizes that through collaboration of tribal resources and tribal programs the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have the ability to provide assistance in combating the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs and the strength to preserve of tribe for generations to come; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Governing Board hereby declares a State of Emergency on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation as a direct result of the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby directs all Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal agencies, departments, and entities to make this State of Emergency their top priority, and to work collaboratively in the development of solutions to the massive and complex problems caused by the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs which threatens our tribe.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby establishes a Task Force, including but not limited to the following: Indian Child Welfare, Housing, Clinic, LCO Boys and Girls Club, LCO Tribal School, Legal, Law Enforcement, Youth Advisory Council, Elder Advisory Council, and the Tribal Governing Board which is charged with creating a "Tribal Action Plan."

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby directs all Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal agencies, departments, and entities to assemble statistics related to this State of

Emergency, including, but not limited to: fatalities resulting from the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; the impact of families, including the number of children displaced from their home as a result of the abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; the number of terminations from employment and disciplinary actions at the workplace resulting from methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; the number of evictions from tribal housing resulting from methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; the number of prosecutions resulting from abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; the number of AODA referrals resulting from abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs; and the number of truancy actions resulting from abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby directs the tribal planning department to compile a grant proposal to create a “tribal action plan” to address this State of Emergency and hereby directs all Tribal agencies, departments, and entities to collaboratively develop and implement this “tribal action plan” to aid the Tribe with this State of Emergency.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Governing Board hereby redirects all Tribal directors and other budgetary officers to work with the TGB to re-assess the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Budget to explore all options available to aid the Tribe with this State of Emergency, including, but not limited to; allocation resources for additional Indian Child Welfare staff, increased law enforcement activity to assist the community if addressing drug abuse, develop direct communication between directors, tribal programs, and the community to seek and remove centers of drugs activities and the people who benefit from them, to establishment of a tribal ordinance prohibiting the manufacture, distribution, or consumption of methamphetamine, heroin, and illegal drugs.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, by concentrating the efforts of our sovereign nation through this State of Emergency, tribal members and our tribal communities of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians will be able to continue to prosper as the “Pride of the Ojibwe” and protect our people now and the generations to come.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Secretary/Treasurer of the TGB, hereby certify that the Board is composed of seven members, of whom    being present, constituted a quorum at a meeting thereof, duly called, convened, and held on this    day of November, 2017 that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of    members,    against,    abstaining, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

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Jason Weaver, Secretary/Treasurer  
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board