

# Oneida Nation

Post Office Box 365

Phone: (920)869-2214



Oneida, WI 54155

## **BC Resolution # 04-08-20-G Reducing the General Tribal Council Higher Education Scholarship Payments for FY2020 and FY2021**

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government has proclaimed a public health emergency related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and has identified that the spread of the virus has resulted in large numbers of individuals becoming ill and high mortality rates, impacts to the stock markets, and businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** state governors, including the State of Wisconsin, have declared public health emergencies and state public health officers have issued orders, for example, closing public schools, limiting public gatherings, and closing restaurants and bars except for take-out orders; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 12, 2020 the Chairman declared a public health state of emergency, the Oneida Business Committee took actions to take steps to protect the health and welfare of the members, employees and the community, including instituting expenditure restrictions to preserve resources for the provision of governmental services to members most at risk, closure of the Nation's gaming operations, and insuring that employees will continued to be paid during the public health emergency as long as the Nation's resources will allow; and
- WHEREAS,** the Treasurer has implemented a COVID-19 Finance Team (*Finance Team*) to monitor the financial status of the Nation and make recommendations regarding expenditure restrictions for the remainder of FY2020, budgeting for FY2021, development of directions for a continuing resolution for FY2021, and other actions necessary to ensure governmental services can continue to be provided to those most in need and at risk regarding COVID-19 and the health impacts of the virus; and
- WHEREAS,** the Finance Team has identified that the Nation can, if funding is carefully managed, meet the needs of the operations in providing governmental services for a 30-day period beginning from the closure date of the gaming operations; and

**WHEREAS,** the Finance Team, working closely with Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications, is kept up-to-date regarding federal emergency funding opportunities which will assist the Nation in managing the public health crises and has identified that the Nation has a potential gap of 30 to 60 days where federal financial assistance will be authorized and delivered; and

**WHEREAS,** the Finance Team, working closely with the Grants Office, has identified that granting agencies will be providing approvals to delay or amend existing grants considering the current public health crises which will assist the Nation in managing expenses during the financial constraints; and

**WHEREAS,** the General Tribal Council has adopted a higher education scholarship to encourage members to obtain undergraduate and graduate level educations that will increase knowledge, skills, and abilities of those members resulting in improved quality of life for members and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** the higher education scholarship is utilized by almost 700 members, and results in an estimated expense of \$10 million each year; and

**WHEREAS,** it is likely that the financial status of the Nation will continue to be under extreme stress such that, when General Tribal Council meetings are scheduled, it will not be possible to continue the higher education scholarship payments at the current amount in the near future and still maintain governmental services; and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee believes that reducing the higher education scholarship to \$5000 per year will provide financial aid to students based upon current limited financial resources; and

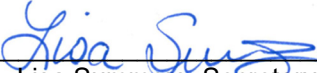
**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee, after being informed regarding the current financial status of the Nation and the long-term impact of closing the gaming operations as well as the impact of the virus on restarting the economy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Oneida Business Committee declares that the General Tribal Council Higher Education Scholarship is reduced to \$5000 per year, beginning immediately.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** the Oneida Business Committee declares that upon returning to improved financial status it sets as a priority to increasing the General Tribal Council Higher Education Scholarship.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum; 9 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020; that the forgoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 7 members for, 0 members against, and 1 members not voting\*; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
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Lisa Summers, Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee

\*According to the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, the Chair votes "only in the case of a tie."