

Chief Executive Virgil Wind

Virgil Wind is the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a federally recognized tribe located in East-Central Minnesota. Wind was raised by his grandparents, the late Sonny and Dorothy Wind, who instilled within him a profound sense of responsibility and deep connection to his Anishinaabe roots. Before starting his career in tribal government, Wind served in various capacities, including as chairman of the local school board, Vice Chair of the Local Indian Education Parent Committee, and as owner of a successful construction company.

Wind's tribal government career began in 2020 when he was elected as District I Representative, at which time he quickly distinguished himself as a passionate advocate for legislative reform and community empowerment. During his time as a legislator, Wind spearheaded efforts to combat the drug epidemic, engage the community, enhance judicial and executive processes, and promote responsible fiscal management throughout the tribe.

In April of 2024, Wind was elected as Chief Executive and took office in July. Thus far during his tenure, Wind has focused on improving accountability and the effectiveness of tribal government, enhancing governance of the Band's various business enterprises, and building strong relationships with federal, state, and tribal leaders. Finally, Chief Wind is a passionate advocate for tribal police, Ojibwe language and culture revitalization, and the education and well-being of children everywhere.