

Long Lake #58 First Nation

209 Otter Street
P.O. Box 609
Longlac, Ontario
P0T 2A0



Tel: (807) 876-2292
Fax: (807) 876-2757

February 3, 2026

Dear Long Lake 58 Citizens,

**RE: Chief and Council Letter to Long Lake 58 Membership Update to
*Declaration of State of Local Emergency Over Lack of Enforcement
of Trespassers in Community***

During the early hours of Friday January 30th, we were informed that a young lady from Ginoogaming passed away while visiting our community. We offer our sincere condolences and our support to the family and community with this unnecessary and tragic loss of life.

No First Nation citizen, family and community should have to endure this tragedy and in response to ongoing threats, violence, and passing of community members from illegal drugs; Long Lake 58 Chief and Council issued a *Declaration of State of Local Emergency Over Lack of Enforcement of Trespassers in Community* on January 30th, 2026.

Declaration of State of Local Emergency

The intent of this Declaration is to acknowledge the shared pain within our community and recognize the frustration that we are experiencing due to the ongoing presence of drug traffickers who are supplying to vulnerable members in our community.

We know there is an escalation of overdoses and violence within the community that lead to threats and bodily harm to vulnerable members, and families.

With the completion of the community election last week, Chief and Council fully understand and hear the plea from our elders, youth, and members of our community that they need a safer environment.

It is unfortunate that the ongoing presence of trespassers has created an unsafe environment for our children, families, and elders, and in turn is fueling addiction, fear, and distrust among all of us.

On Monday February 3, 2026 – With support from the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Debassige and Northern Superior Regional Chief Hardy, we held introductory meetings with senior officials from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Anishinabek Police Services (APS).

We shared our Emergency Declaration and requested their assistance to improve the safety of our community and help us remove unwanted trespassers from our community.

During the meeting, the OPP and APS committed to working together and further improve public safety tactics not only in our community, but with our relations and friends in Ginoogaming First Nation, Longlac and the Municipality of Greenstone.

I made it very clear to both police services that the removal of trespassers from the community and creating a safe environment is the priority of Chief and Council.

Earlier in the day, we also met with senior officials from Indigenous Services Canada to share the Declaration and confirm the prolonged effect of the trauma and tragedies that our membership and families continue to endure.

Moving Forward and Strategy

With the completion of the community election last week, Chief and Council fully understand and hear the plea from our elders, youth, and members of our community that they need a safe environment for our youth, families, and elders.

It is unfortunate that the ongoing presence of trespassers has created an unsafe environment for our children, families, and elders, and in turn is fueling addiction, fear, and distrust among all of us.

Chief and Council fully acknowledge the frustration of outsiders coming into our community and bringing further sadness and harm to our vulnerable members. During the past several years, we have lost too many parents and caregivers that have orphaned over forty-five children.

Chief and Council recognize that this is **not acceptable** and are working to develop a strategy to respond to this community crisis and hardship to community members.

As part of this new approach, we need to reprioritize the efforts of our community departments and programs to further support the youth, elders, and families on this difficult journey to create a safe place for all.

Chief and Council acknowledge that community members and families that are caught in this harmful cycle of addiction want to end the cycle of abuse and pain. We are committed to helping you get better so you can take care of your family and other community members.

Chief and Council will work to develop new partnerships with external organizations, agencies to access support and resources to help our community membership heal and provide for our youth, elders, and families.

Rather than give into the endless loss and trauma due to these illicit drugs, we will choose hope, compassion and dedicate ourselves to a path of healing. We will need everyone's help and patience as we renew this difficult journey.

Our strategy to lift our community from this harmful cycle; is to seek and accept external help and with community membership's support, work diligently and cooperatively to create a safe community for all.

Chief and Council, our departments, programs, and our staff cannot do it alone. We will need your ongoing support, patience, and feedback to help us develop immediate and long-term strategies to achieve community healing. We are depending on your help and guidance as we renew our efforts to end the harmful cycle of drugs and violence.

One of the many blessings of our community is the large numbers of off-reserve community members that reside in Manitoba, Ontario and within Canada. Chief and Council is calling out to you as we need your help and support as we work to creating a safe community that we can all return to and enjoy together.

We acknowledge that the road to a safer community will not be easy and will have setbacks, however we are committed to working through these challenges and with your support and help, we will achieve our goal of removing unwanted trespassers and creating a safe community for all.

Together we can address these challenges and grow a safe and healthy community.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Onabigon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief John Onabigon SR

Cc: Councillors of Long Lake 58

Encl: Long Lake 58 First Nation Declaration of State of Local Emergency Over Lack of Enforcement of Trespassers in Community (dated January 30, 2026)



LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Declaration of State of Local Emergency Over Lack of Enforcement of Trespassers in Community

ORDER

WHEREAS the safety and well-being of the membership and residents of Long Lake #58 First Nation is of paramount importance to Chief & Council;

WHEREAS there has been escalating threats to the safety, health, and well-being of community members as a result of unwanted individuals from outside the community who have been trespassing on our lands and entering our homes;

WHEREAS these individuals are involved in the sale and distribution of illegal drugs, bringing violence, exploitation, and harm into our community;

WHEREAS their presence has created an unsafe environment for our children, families, and Elders, and is fueling addictions, fear, and disruption of our way of life;

WHEREAS despite efforts to report trespassers to law enforcement, little action has been taken and our community cannot wait any longer;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to our inherent authority and responsibility to advocate for our members, we hereby declare a state of emergency to ensure:

- community members are protected from violence, intimidation, and illegal activity
- unwanted trespassers and drug dealers are removed from the community
- peace, safety, and security for all residents is restored;

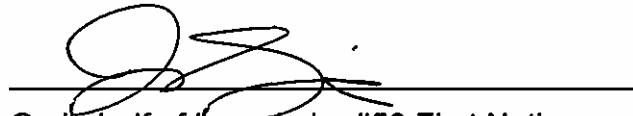
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Long Lake #58 First Nation calls upon law enforcement and federal and provincial government agencies to provide immediate support, intervention, and prosecution; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Long Lake #58 First Nation will enact that any person who's living or engaging in unlawful activities within the community will be considered a trespasser.

ORDERED by Long Lake #58 First Nation, on this 30 day of January, 2026, and remaining in force until the threat to the community is addressed and the safety of our members is secured.

PER:

Chief John O'Nabigon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JO' followed by a stylized flourish, is written over a horizontal line.

On behalf of Long Lake #58 First Nation
Chief and Council

BCR – 2025-2026-011(a-b)