

# Land recovery: Putting it all together at Bois Forte

*ILTF plays a vital role in complex partnership to restore 28,089 acres*





## ILTF plays a vital role in historic land recovery at Bois Forte

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is committed to serving American Indian nations and people in the recovery and control of their rightful homelands. In June, an historic partnership between ILTF, The Conservation Fund and the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe led to the recovery of 28,089 acres on the Nett Lake and Deer Creek sectors of the Bois Forte Reservation. The purchase of land lost more than 100 years ago was financed by the Indian Land Capital Company, an ILTF subsidiary. A combination of conservation incentive payments, coupled with sustainable revenue streams derived from the sale of carbon credits generated on the land, will enable the Band to fund the purchase.

“As we work to ensure more Indian lands return to Indian hands, the Bois Forte land recovery demonstrates a meaningful step on the long journey ahead,” said ILTF president Cris Stainbrook. “It reminds all of us that restoring land to Indian ownership, management and control is more than a hashtag, it is a reality. We hope it inspires many more like it across Indian Country.”

***“Restoring land to Indian ownership, management and control is more than a hashtag, it is reality.”***





## Meet ILTF's Board of Directors



**Philomena Kebec** (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) is a 2008 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School. She clerked for the Honorable Kathleen Mottl of Minnesota's Tenth Judicial District and later served as an attorney with the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, D.C. Philomena returned home in 2011 to work for the Bad River Legal Program, focusing on environmental protection and child welfare prosecutions. In 2014, Philomena transitioned to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission as the Policy Analyst for treaty rights and implementation. She is also co-founder of the Gwayakobimaadiziwin Bad River Needle Exchange, a nationally-recognized tribal harm reduction program offering syringe exchange and overdose prevention. Philomena now serves as the Economic Development Coordinator for the Bad River Tribe and is an Addiction Policy Scholar of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. "I was thrilled to be invited to join the ILTF board," she said. "I have been so impressed with the breadth and quality of ILTF's work."

***"Land is everything for Tribes. It is the basis of our tribal sovereignty and critical for community and cultural cohesiveness."***







# Indian Land Capital Company financed the Bois Forte purchase

June 7, 2022 was an historic day for the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe as they celebrated the purchase and recovery of 28,089 acres of their traditional territory. The transaction was financed by the Indian Land Capital Company (ILCC), a Certified Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) providing alternative loan options to Native Nations for tribal land acquisition projects. “This purchase represents one of the larger transactions in company history,” said ILCC’s Chief Executive Officer Rjay Brunkow, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. “We are honored to help pave the way for this historic land acquisition.”

A subsidiary of the non-profit Indian Land Tenure Foundation, ILCC understands the specific needs of Native Nations. The company lends to tribes on a “full faith and credit” basis, a unique approach that recognizes their sovereign status and business acumen. This enables tribes to process land purchases more quickly and efficiently and avoid costly legal fees while ensuring that the land remains in the hands of the tribe in perpetuity.

For more information, please visit the Indian Land Capital Company at **[www.ilcc.net](http://www.ilcc.net)**.



*The historic land deal was made official at a signing ceremony held at the Bois Forte Tribal headquarters at Nett Lake.*