



# **GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **FIRST NATION RECEIVES \$400,000 FOR MAKING GROUND RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT**

**LONGLAC, ON, MAY 15, 2009:** On April 7, 1994 Ginoogaming First Nation commenced an initial investigation on the condition of the Making Ground River Bridge and associated road upgrade as a result of its poor condition and the need to improve safety, health and the environment. The deteriorating bridge has been a barrier to several economic development projects that Ginoogaming has planned as all of these projects need a new bridge and good road.

The original bridge was built in 1947 for industrial purposes and today it is in an advanced state of deterioration that complete replacement and road upgrade is required. Ginoogaming was successful in 2004 to receive funds for only a Feasibility Study and awarded to Cook Engineering of Thunder Bay.

The project cost was estimated at \$2.5 million in 2004 and Ginoogaming found it very difficult to secure partnership funding. This was after many letters of support was received from the federal and provincial governments, the local municipality, other agencies, bridge users and the community members of Ginoogaming First Nation.

The project lay dormant but was reactivated in 2008 under appointment of Celia Echum as Chief and it was her vision that the project has to move ahead. "There is too much at stake. I cannot fathom school bus loads of community children which could become our next generation leaders crossing the deteriorating bridge," says Chief Celia Echum of Ginoogaming First Nation.

During November 2007 the revised opinion of probable project cost escalated to \$4.7 million from the first named cost of \$2.5 million in 2004. Today, the new probable project cost rose further to \$5.1 million.

Ginoogaming is hoping to secure several funding partners to meet the challenge. Just this month, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada have confirmed providing \$400,000 funding to begin the bridge design work. "This is a good start and as other funders come on board, it is hoped construction can start as early as next spring," says Chief Celia Echum.

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**Please note:**

Photographs are available by request. Adolph Rasevych and Chief Celia Echum will be in city of Thunder Bay until May 16, 2009. They are both available to comment.