



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Charitable Donations of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation will Continue Despite Changes at the Baagwating Community Association**

**PORT PERRY, AUGUST 10, 2016** – The Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) remain committed to ensuring that the First Nation’s charitable donations to the local and regional community remain a priority.

MSIFN is incredibly proud of the donations it has made through the Baagwating Community Association (BCA) – more than \$13.5 million to worthwhile and valuable causes. The Great Blue Heron Casino (GBHC) also contributes more than \$236 million to the Regional economy and provides over 1,100 local jobs. Despite GBHC changing from a charitable casino as of September 2016, charitable giving will continue. MSIFN donations will continue to be under the discretion of the First Nation as the MSIFN moves the GBH into this new phase for gaming.

MSIFN Chief Kelly LaRocca wants to reassure the community that while BCA will no longer operate as it once did, MSIFN remains committed to its role in the North Durham community. “We at MSIFN have been honoured to show our appreciation to the local and regional community by making such considerable donations. We are incredibly proud of our charitable work and I assure you it will not be ending with the upcoming changes to GBH.”

“In our negotiations with the Government of Ontario, MSIFN made it clear that we value our role as good neighbours and citizens. We are in the process of developing an MSIFN committee to oversee charitable donations, which will be up and running in very short order,” LaRocca continued. “If anyone has any questions, we welcome them to call the MSIFN offices – we are open and transparent during this time of transition.”

At MSIFN on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 a signing ceremony will take place where Chief LaRocca and Council will be joined by representatives of the OLG to mark their historic agreement.

As part of the day’s celebrations, members of BCA will have their years of service and hard work recognized. While MSIFN moves toward a new model for charitable donations in the community, the commitments, values and depth of BCA’s good work will be forever recognized.

The MSIFN have been proudly running the GBHC for close to two decades. The GBHC was financed, built and developed by the MSIFN following a First Nation – Crown Agreement with the government of Ontario, signed in 1993.

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