



# MEMORANDUM

TO: Oneida Business Committee  
 FROM: Lawrence Barton, Chief Financial Officer  
 DATE: February 13, 2020  
 RE: **Fiscal Impact of the Michael Debraska Petition – GTC Stipends**

**I. Estimated Fiscal Impact Summary**

<b>Petition – GTC Stipends</b>		
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	General Tribal Council Oneida Business Committee	
	<b>Fiscal Year 2021</b>	<b>Ten Year Estimate</b>
<b>Total Estimated Fiscal Impact</b>	\$1,537,463	\$15,374,636

**II. Background**

The petition contains the following:

“We the undersigned of fifty (50) or more qualified voters, do hereby request the Chairman of the Oneida Nation to call for a Special General Tribal Council (GTC) meeting to be held on a Saturday only to allow for greater membership participation with this petition being the only thing on the agenda, within one-hundred twenty (120) days of receipt of this petition, to discuss the following:

1. To double the stipend pay for all GTC meeting(s) from \$100.00 to \$200.00 to be effective in either September or October 2020. The increase will be included in the 2021 budget cycle of the Oneida Nation as presented to GTC in either September or October 2020 for approval by GTC; and
2. The Business Committee will contact petitioner, in writing, to discuss the date and time of this scheduled GTC meeting if the Business Committee does not schedule the meeting on a Saturday to allow petitioner to challenge the Business Committee's decision of the scheduling. The Business Committee will follow all applicable rule and regulations currently in-place for contacting petitioner.”

Because the 2020 budget was previously approved by General Tribal Council, for the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that if the petition is approved, the change to the stipend payment would take effect in Fiscal Year 2021.

Stipend Payments for General Tribal Council Meetings began with an August 11, 2007 GTC Directive: “Motion by Madelyn Genskow that a stipend of \$100 be paid to any General Tribal Council member who attends a GTC meeting and is eligible to vote and stays until the end of the meeting effective in calendar year 2008 and for all time, seconded by Nancy Skenandore.”

The following information was provided by the Business Committee Support Office.

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Three year average</b>
<b>Number of GTC Meetings</b>	11	11	6	9
<b>Average Annual Attendance</b>	1,681	1,756	1,688	1,708

Utilizing a three year average, if the petition is approved the stipend expenses will be approximately \$3,074,927 in 2021. This is an increase of approximately \$1,537,463.

Given the current layout utilized for General Tribal Council Meetings, the capacity of the two Radisson conference rooms is approximately 2,024 individuals. Based on the average attendees, the space can accommodate an additional 316 people before reaching capacity.

Since 2013, the meeting attendance has ranged from a low of 1,381 attending the meeting on Sanctions and Penalties, to a high of 2,061 for the Danforth and Dallas Petitions on Family Law and the Appeals Commission.

Enrollments lists approximately 7,536 members over the age of 18 living in the two counties of the reservation and in the Milwaukee area. Given an average attendance of 1,708, if the remaining membership over the age of 18 attended, the Nation would need the capacity to accommodate an additional 5,828 members for General Tribal Council Meetings.

It would seem prudent for the Business Committee to consider utilizing additional conference space linked to the main meeting.

### **III. Methodology and Assumptions**

A “Fiscal Impact Statement” means an estimate of the total identifiable fiscal year financial effects associated with legislation and includes startup costs, personnel, office, documentation costs.

Finance does NOT identify the source of funding for the estimated cost or allocate any funds to the petition.

The analysis was completed based on the information provided as of the date of this memo.

### **III. Executive Summary of Findings**

Finance cannot reliably estimate any change in meeting attendance. Therefore, only the historical data and the increased dollar amount of the stipend, from \$100 to \$200, was utilized in this analysis. In the past, General Tribal Council has stated that they are not willing to move these meetings off the reservation. Therefore, increased expenses for an alternative venue or changes in staffing were not considered.

### **III. Financial Impact**

Based on trending, approval of the petition will have a \$1,537,463 impact in Fiscal Year 2021 and a total ten year impact of \$15,374,636.

### **IV. Recommendation**

Finance does not make a recommendation in regards to course of action in this matter. Rather, the purpose of this analysis is to disclose the potential financial impact of an action, so that the Oneida Business Committee and General Tribal Council has the information with which to render a decision.