

Winnay Wemigwase is Tribal Chairperson of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) and was raised in Harbor Springs, Michigan, the center of her Tribe's traditional territory. She attended Holy Childhood of Jesus Indian Boarding School from 1980 to 1986 as a day student. Winnay graduated from Harbor Springs High School in 1993; and then went on to attend Central Michigan University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education with an English major, a Language Arts minor, and an Ojibwe Bilingual/Bicultural Education minor in 2000.



Ms. Wemigwase then served her Tribe as both an employee, from 2001-2010, and then as a member of the LTBB Tribal Council from 2011-2015. As an LTBB employee, Winnay worked as an Education Specialist and then as the Director of Archives, Records and Cultural Preservation. She has also held several positions with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan in the Education Department and in their Behavioral Health Programs.

After graduating in May 2022 from Michigan State University with a Master of Clinical Social Work (MSW) degree, Winnay joined Mt. Pleasant Public Schools as the Mary McGuire Elementary School Counselor, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Winnay is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Value-Driven Organizations (VDO) at Central Michigan University, with an expected graduation date of May 2026. Ms. Wemigwase was sworn in as Tribal Chairperson for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians alongside her running mate and Tribal Vice Chairperson, Eva Oldman, on August 21st, 2025.