Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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The award of a $985,056 contract to construct municipal facilities at Red Lake, Minn., was announced today by Marvin L. Franklin, Assistant to the Secretary for Indian Affairs.

The contract with Peterson Construction Co., Inc., of Grand Forks, N.D., will provide for construction of a municipal center with court complex, police department, detention facilities, adult rehabilitation center, fire station and other related facilities. Existing detention facilities at Red Lake have been overcrowded and .have needed replacing for the past 35 years, but it wasn't until two years ago that the project was activated.

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians took the lead in preparing a comprehensive study with assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to determine the needs and best solution for the problems that exist on the reservation.

"Once again we see what individual and tribal initiative can achieve in getting a job done the way the Indians want it done," said Franklin. Along with the proposed center will go a new correctional approach of limited detention facilities while focusing on prevention of delinquency, crime and alcoholism through rehabilitation activities. The need for a fire equipment building is vital to the Red Lake community, Franklin said, and will be included in the total proposed project. Construction of the municipal facilities will begin soon with completion expected next September. The center at Red Lake will be the second Bureau funded rehabilitation and treatment centers for Indians. The other center is located at Colorado River, Arizona., and will be included in the total proposed project.

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