

## **Sharon Ostberg Candidate for Councilor**

**First of all Cha Miigwetch for those that have nominated me for this upcoming term, and it has been a pleasure, as well as a lot of work to serve on the last term.**

**Each Councilor is given a portfolio or two to carry. Over the past two years mine was vast and very busy, so I will outline what I had accomplished over the past two years on these, and hope to continue over the next two years. As well as working within my portfolios, I had attended many meetings on behalf of the Chief so that some of his time can be freed up to attend the very demanding land claim negotiations and process. Some of these meetings included meetings with the **UOI and Hydro One**. These were specific on the share purchases, as well as the elimination of the delivery charges on your Hydro Bills, The later resulting in positive benefits to is all FN on reserve residence, and you are now benefiting. **The Northern Transportation Strategy** - how are we going to improve access to communities this includes not only roads but services using transportation such as buses, trains we in Northern Ontario need better access to major centers for medical and various reasons. This is a multi year strategy that is still in the process. I also replace the Chief on the **BLP** board for the East West Transmission Corridor, we along with 5 other First Nations are 20% owners, once built this will give our community some long term revenue, but more importantly this past year, in the creation of Supercom Industries, resulting in training and employment opportunities to our people, through contracting with the general contractors. I also attended a few meetings on the Chiefs behalf on **AES** (Education) agreement which was signed this past month.**

**So as you can see there is more to being a band councilor than attending a few meetings a month each of us have responsibilities to ensure that the community needs are being met. I believe that I have fulfilled my duties as a council member to the best of my ability and have dedicate almost 5 days per week working either directly or indirectly on behalf of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, and if given the opportunity I will continue to do so. Below is an outline of the portfolios that I had carried these past two years.**

**Governance** Although we have created our own Chi-Naakinigewin to make our laws this requires a lot of research, to ensure that we are doing it correctly, along with the staff I have provided input to start our own Election process, our own Membership code, and our Education law, over the next little while the community will be consulted on those. These laws are not something that one person can write and give for approval, this will take a community effort, and I am prepared to continue assisting on all our Governance Processes.

**Economic & Community Development;** In this dep't, I mostly focused on Business opportunities and Training and Employment. These entailed board participation, I sit on the "Aboriginal Employment and Training Services" board of which we are member along with 8 other First Nations, attend monthly meetings approve budgets and have written proposals and guided others for some of our employment and training programs. I also sit on the board for "Debenjgan (Forestry and Energy)" over the past year this program has gone through a lot of struggles, however, it is now on a good path. Yes we have suspended our Forestry operation, and I fully supported that decision, this venture was not sustainable with only one contract for our logs, and equipment that was not suited to our needs. Maybe, in the future we will start up again once we have better wood fiber prices with more mills, so that it can be profitable. In turn we have been looking at other opportunities for employing our people, utilizing the equipment and keeping profitable businesses going. The new partnership with Moberg expanding the Mines tailings pond is an example of using our existing equipment and people to get working. I have also written a number of policies and procedures, for this entity, so that we can ensure our "for profit business" are consistent with today's economic ventures. I am presently working on work descriptions for our staff.

**Finance & Administration :** I am a council member of this committee which provides direction to our financial staff and support them in some of the critical decisions that must be made. I also sat on the boards to hire individuals working in this department. Review Personnel Policy & Human resources and make recommendation for any changes

**Education Curriculum Development:** As a council member for this portfolio, I fully support our land base curriculum and the joining of the Aboriginal Education System. I would do some research or be a sounding board upon request of the director of Education, I also sit on hiring boards for teachers and staff. I would like to play a more active role in this, portfolio, especially in looking for additional and funding for Science and Technology, as this will be the future of our children.

I would like to continue working to assist our community in moving forward with many of our initiatives.

I hope that you will put your **X for Sharon Ostberg** for the upcoming election. Although, I do not live in the community I will continue to call it home, and continue to work hard for prosperity to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

Miigwetch

Sharon Ostberg