

August 12, 2019

Good Day Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

First of all I would like to say Miigwetch to Patricia Starr and Dorothy Michano for nominating me to run for council this term. I would also like to express how rewarding it has been to serve as your council over the past two terms, I thank you for your past support and look forward to your continuing support on election day.

I know that I have not been around the community as often as I should be, however, I am working for your every day. I have taken on a lot of meetings on behalf of the Chief, so that it can give him some breathing room between his meetings and a little time in the community. Some of the very time consuming boards I sit on are as follows.

Over the past years I have been active on the AETS board, as the board president, and helped it get into it's own ISEP status, which means the funding for programs delivered will no longer have to be filtered through the UOI and will not be subject to a 10% reduction for administration, in turn this allows a little more resources for training and employment opportunities through our 10 year agreement directly with Canada.

I also sit on the Dbenjgan Board which is the holding company for Twin Falls, Kagiano, MKWA and partly the GMS Hotels and the BMI Construction LTD (BMI-Maamwigaaboo) these projects have been very time consuming and hopefully soon we should see some financial results back into the community. We are slowly moving these entities over so that they will be self-sufficient and non-dependent on First Nation support, but bringing revenue into the community.

On behalf of the Chief I have been actively participating on the BLP Board (Bamkushwada) for the East West Tie project. To which the Six partnering First Nations have a 20% ownership, Biigtigong being a sixth of that 20% Just today, I attended a meeting to determine different financing options to purchase our shares which will be in or around 62 million dollars, rest assured, there is no way that the First Nation will be on the hook for any of this money it will be backed the three partners and BLP, we will begin to receive some benefits of this project at the start of operation in 2023. Hopefully all the permitting will clear through and construction will start mid Oct.

As well as the actual boards that have been sitting on, I also have committee responsibilities, I am on the Finance Committee, and the Human Resource Committee to assist manager in operational decisions, write and review policies. I also have assisted in other various programs we have on the go, such as the governance structure, smart cities challenge, land claim as well as other meetings, as and when requested by the Chief.

I look forward to your support in the upcoming election as I see there is still a lot of work to be done within these committees and the boards that I participate on, I can only say continuity builds strength.

I hope that I have your vote of confidence.

Sharon Ostberg