

Greetings, Fellow Community Members:

In making the decision to let my name stand for councillor with the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, I have put a lot of thought, prayer and consideration into what I can offer as an elected official of our community. As a member of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, I bring tens years of experience sitting on council. I have been actively involved in various portfolios over the years that have provided me the knowledge, skills and abilities to provide sound, reasonable judgement when making decisions that affect the greater good of the community

As an elected voice for the people, we need to maintain a strong commitment concerning the need to advocate and give strong political voice at a federal and provincial level concerning the preservation of our inherent rights as First Nation's individuals. In reflecting on what it means to be a sovereign nation, our community is making strides in ensuring that we are not controlled by federal and provincial policies that hinder our growth and development. With the ratification of our Chi-Naakinigewin, we as a community have laid the foundation for ensuring that the rights of our children and the future generations to come are protected. I feel strongly that in order to continue with the governance process that we need to work at strengthening our community engagement process. I look forward to becoming actively involved in initiatives that provide education and awareness to community members regarding the need to build upon our own laws that govern our Election process, our membership code, home ownership and property ownership, own source funding initiatives and community enhancement.

With the ratification of our Chi-Naakinigewin, we were able to make history by signing with the Anishinabek National Education Agreement which is the largest self government agreement in Canada. This historical document provides recognition of our First Nations right to take control over the education of our children on reserve. It is essential that we are allowed to educate our children about the rich cultural diversity of who they are as Nishnaabeg through the sharing of land based knowledge. I will continue to support the revitalization of our language through the Biigtigong Language project.

There is a strong need for transparency regarding communication both within and at community level. I am advocating for executive briefings to be delivered to community regarding major issues that concern our membership. As elected officials we need to take greater initiative with regards to ensuring that our membership has the tools and information required to make informed decisions concerning their welfare.

To ensure economic sustain ability I will continue to work with our staff and other members of council to ensure that financial policies are in place that promote financial viability, transparency and accountability to our membership.

As your elected official, I will continue to ensure that the policies and procedures that govern our community are fair and equitable. I will provide sound leadership that is non-judgmental, honest and consistent. I possess sound decision-making skills and provide diplomacy.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to become an elected official for the community and wish to extend my sincere congratulations to all elected officials on September 30, 2017. If elected I can be reached by phone at 807-229-9089 or email at [simone.desmoulin@picriver.com](mailto:simone.desmoulin@picriver.com) should you wish to discuss community issues.