



### **Vote for Shirley McLeod (Ahwanaquot)**

Hello Ahnii,

Shirley (Ahwanaquot) McLeod, Ndizhinikas I was born and raised here in Serpent River First Nation. I completed my high school in North Bay in Business Commerce. Later on in years, I attended Native Skills/George Brown College in Toronto to upgrade my skills in Business Administration. I have worked with several First Nation Organizations over the years, Ontario First Nation Police Commission, Chiefs of Ontario, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation, Maamwesying, North Shore Community Health Services and North Shore Tribal Council.

I have served on Council for a number of years holding various portfolios; I am committed to the duties and responsibilities of the role of a Councillor. I dedicated my time and energy to the tasks given as a Councillor by exploring other opportunities and new ideas that would benefit the Community. I am very grateful for all the accomplishments in the past years as we continue to grow together.

My priorities as a Councillor would be to listen to Community concerns. Within our Governance Manual, would be to look at some of our major roles and responsibilities, such as; Annual budgets, monthly Financial Statements, negotiating, review and signing of funding agreements in a timely manner. Lobby for more funding to create employment for our community, band buildings such as GEKA and other needed areas. In Education, the essential task would be to offer the students the opportunity to explore their interests, in building homes, environment, infrastructure, and trades so they can learn what skills are needed in our community.

In the last two years, I attended the Elder's Environmental Group, Matrimonial Real Property, Grandma and Aunties Group and volunteered for the Cultural Program, called Elders to see if they needed groceries etc. and other areas when called upon. Attended Chief and Council Zoom meetings twice a month and participated on conferences – "Wellness Series finding Balance in an Unbalanced World"

Council has a few outstanding projects from previous years that require follow up, this is a task that I will bring to the table for review.

Communication is a big factor, communicating to the Community needs to be consistent by doing mail outs, posters, Internet social media etc. and follow-up once in a while to see if Elders received the handout information. It's important that everyone knows what is happening in our community and has the tools and accessibility to ask questions.

Review financial policies and implementing a yearly recommendation or Bylaw for the Budget.

Council started the practice of meeting with the local municipalities to work together on training, job opportunities and to build a good relationship; we need to continue this practice. Our Community is growing.

Council and Community need to continue to inform the Municipalities of our History and Culture, as new people are always moving to our area in the North. Education is important.

During the past year, it has been a difficult time for our community with COVID, there have been a lot of stresses. We need to look at updating our Drugs & Alcohol Strategy and how we can improve the services of mental health in our community.

Always remember, Serpent River First Nation (Genaabaajing) is our Homestead a place we call home. We all want to live and work in a healthier, safe environment, so let's work together to achieve goals and if we can see past our differences, we can build a brighter, safer, more economical growth for our future generations.

On October 30, 2021 I hope I can count on your vote, I look forward to serving you and the Community to the best of my ability.

Chi Meegwetch and Thank You

Shirley McLeod (Ahwanaquot)