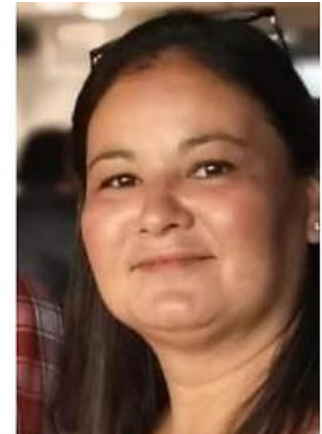


Boozhoo Members of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation,

My name is Laurel Spalding (Laurie McIvor), and I am running for re-election for position of Councillor. I currently sit as a council member for Wabigoon Lake and would be honoured to continue working in a political capacity for the Nation.



My background includes:

- Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Manitoba;
- Master's degree in Indigenous Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University;
- A registered mental health practitioner, and;
- A teacher in adult education for the past 10 years.

Although it is difficult to list all achievements in the last 2 years, I have listed a few of the following:

Finance: Working within the financial department to make meaningful, positive changes and maintain good accounting practice. We have developed and enforced a sound financial policy to ensure that all financial matters are addressed with integrity and financial compliance to serve the best interests of Wabigoon Lake. Over the past 24 months, additional processes have been created and implemented and we are currently amending our financial policy to reflect them. I'm proud of the financial efforts that have been accomplished when it comes to the Nation's audits, financial department movements, and the dedication we have received from employees in keeping our department fully functioning. If re-elected, I hope to continue working on our audit processes and to make our Nation current and competitive when it comes to future proposals. A lot of proposals weigh heavily on current audits and without them, we didn't have the opportunity to be competitive. I believe we will be in a position in the coming years to now apply in a fair and competitive state. We have set up Direct Deposit for employees and vendors and have recently added a Benefits & Pension program for employees and Chief and Council.

Health: An early successful proposal I am proud of was a 1.5-million-dollar extension to our Health Centre which offers wrap around supportive services. This type of service makes it easier for our members to have services in one building as it relates to health programming. I'm proud to have watched this build from beginning to end and am excited to see more expanded services in the future.

Housing: This current Chief and Council have been working diligently to secure funding for new housing builds. We are currently in the process of the construction of 26 homes this term. These housing projects took a lot of proposal writing time and negotiations, and I am extremely proud of Chief Wetelainen and the other Councillors for the planning and dedication it took to achieve such a milestone.

Membership: During this past term we have tried to improve correspondence between leadership and membership on the activities of Chief and Council. Meeting minutes have been posted on our WLON website and we were available to answer any other questions membership may have. I believe these meetings were productive and informative and although we've had some IT issues with Zoom, overall gave the membership an opportunity to see what the Chief and Council were working on, continue to

work on, and gave the Chief and Council an opportunity to gain membership's direction. We have also been working on bringing together on-reserve and off-reserve members.

Community & Safety: We had many discussions with Treaty 3 Police administration to secure a police substation in Wabigoon Lake. The land is currently being cleared, septic and water hook ups are being installed, and the building should be fully functioning in the next 6 months. Further, we re-established the Fire team and the First Response team, which provide vital services to our community and members. We also started having community safety meetings this year discussing safety issues and community concerns. These meetings are membership driven and topics have included the installation of camera systems in all our public buildings, lighting up the dark areas of the community, and discussing substance issues within the community. We also negotiated with Hydro One to fund and install security and lights around the community and are in constant contact with Treaty 3 Police regarding legal matters when it comes to the safety of members and community. We developed a community Trespass By-Law to help mitigate the drug problems our community faces to keep unwanted persons out of the Nation. We are also in the process of installing signage for all entrances of community that states our Trespass By-Law and informing the public that trespassers will be prosecuted. It will be an ongoing project with many more meetings to tackle such a huge issue with drugs being a problem in every community. The continuation of these meetings is vital as more conversations need to be discussed regarding prevention, education, and treatment strategies to help support those individuals in need.

Education: We have added a local Jordan's Principle Services Coordinator to assist with both on and off membership with applications. Please reach out to the health centre at 807-938-6464 to connect with our worker. We are looking to wrap up our feasibility study in hopes of securing capital funding for a new school build that will provide the much needed upgrade for our youth in both the Early Years program and elementary school.

I find it difficult to try to wrap up everything we've accomplished in the last 2 years in term, but I believe I've mentioned some work that captures the dedication we have had to the Nation. I believe we were proactively involved in the cultural, economic, and political development of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and continue to be invested to ensure a healthy and prosperous community.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the employees of Wabigoon Lake. Our employees are big contributing factors and play key roles when it comes to making our Nation a safe, secure place where we can live, work, and raise our families in. I've witnessed many employees over the last 2 years give everything they can to make their programs and departments successful. From Elder's programs, cultural gatherings, education plans, employment and training opportunities, knowledge keepers, health services, customer service, workshops, presentations, and so many other programs. Thank you to all for your time and dedication for making our community feel like home.

I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to sit on council the past 24 months. I would be honoured to represent the people of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation for the next 2 years. If members have any other questions about past achievements or future plans, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Chi-Miigwetch.

Laurel Spalding

Councillor

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