



Boozhoo Gakina awiiya. Tyson indizhinikaaz. Makwa Indoodem. Wabigoonii Zaaga'iganing Indonjii.

Hello Everyone. My name is Tyson Williams. I am Bear clan. And I am from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.

I hold a Forestry Technician Diploma, an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Forestry, an Advanced Diploma in Geographic Information Systems, and I am currently enrolled in an Indigenous Language Teachers Instructor Program. I have served on council a total of three terms from 2015-2019 and 2021-2023 and represent the Nation with pride.

I am seeking re-election for the Nation's upcoming 2023 election. Although the past couple years have been very busy and quick, we (the Chief and Council and the staff in the community) have completed a lot of work this term. Despite COVID-19 causing setbacks, we were able to hit the ground running and pick up where the previous Chief and Council left off.

Reflecting on this past term, I would like to start by thanking our health staff for helping lead the community forward and ensuring our members were kept safe and given access to important services throughout the pandemic. I would also like to highlight the collaborative effort of the Chief and Council in moving forward a much-needed extension to the health center. This extension of the Health Centre will help the community and all associated programs and services better meet our health needs today and for years to come.

I would also like to thank those members of council who worked very hard to build, and continue to build, much needed homes in the community. It's been a phenomenal and unprecedented time for the community as there have been over 20 houses built during this term. These houses will help meet the needs for our current community members and for many who seek to move back home to WLON. I am proud to be part of a council that has prioritized housing and managed to achieve such a large increase in infrastructure in such a short period of time.

I would also like to acknowledge our administrative staff and lead council members who have worked tirelessly to re-organize and re-structure our finance department. Collectively, they helped prepare documents to ensure the nation could complete 3 audits in a short time. With the reorganization of the department the next few audits will be completed in a very short and efficient manner.

The current council has also initiated many other major projects that will continue in the upcoming year. For example:

1. The community water treatment plant will be undergoing major upgrades as well as with upgrades to outdated water lines and extending water lines to other community homes.
2. We are also awaiting approval for a new school which is needed for an ever-growing community and staff.
3. We are in the process of building a police substation that will increase community safety.

4. Lastly, our community continues to work tirelessly on land-based issues such as mining, forestry, hydroelectric and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. As well as jurisdictional issues, land and environment protection and language decline.

In addition to collaborating with my colleagues on these accomplishments and more, I have also taken the lead on some very important initiatives in the community during this past term. Those I would like to highlight are:

1. working with Human Resources to streamline policy and ensure wage parity. Our people deserve to make a good living working for their nation.
2. Upgrading the sliding hill and creating a multi-purpose area for both winter and fall by adding walking and biking trails for our youth and active adults and re-sloping the hill for winter activities.
3. Negotiated a Transitional Agreement with Nuclear Waste Management Organization to ensure that those employees who work directly or indirectly with the organization will have job security if our community decides NOT to move forward with the Deep Geological Repository being pursued by the NWMO. This will allow all community members to vote freely on the issue, without pressure to stray from their beliefs as a Anishinaabe person due to fear of losing employment
4. Worked with our Economic Development officer to secure funding to purchase a meat cooling unit for large and small traditional foods. Members of the men's group, in particular leads from Rez Electric, have spearheaded efforts to ensure a processing plant is erected so that large and small game can be processed in conjunction with the cooling unit.
5. Represented WLON's interest on the Bimose Tribal Council as the vice-chair and a board member of Wataynikaneyap.

If re-elected, I would like to continue moving forward on initiatives to keep the community safe as well as creating more spaces for our youth. There are 3 main areas I would like to focus on.

1. Developing an area for our youth that will consist of a baseball field, basketball courts, a youth center and a cover for our rink
2. Continue to focus on Native Language programming for adults and youth. We are losing language speaker quicker than those that are learning, and we need to continue to find more ways to help those working hard to promote and teach the language
3. Find funding, or sole source, if necessary, for improving the pow wow grounds, shoreline, and surrounding area to ensure our shores do not erode and so we can continue to grow prideful in the events we hold there

With your support I would be honored to continue to represent the nation in achieving our goals in a way that considers all our membership and the needs of all our people.

Miigwech



Tyson Williams
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation
tyson.williams@wlon.org
807 220 0508