



My name is Brenda Green-Edwards. As a member of this territory I see the division in our community, the division between Chief and Council and the people. I want to END this division! I am a part of this community and will remain a part and not cut myself off from continuing to support, listen and help any member of this community that needs it. The position is to be a spokesperson and contributing member of the decisions that this community should have a voice in making. WE are here to work for our people, to be accountable to our people and move our community forward in a positive and prosperous way. We are here to work towards bettering the quality of life for everyone.

As a mother and now grandmother, I feel the time is now for us to ensure the future of our generations to come. I have seen how this community can pull together to help support a single member in a time of need. Our whole community needs to come together now more than ever to make the needed changes. I am running for this position to give a voice back to our members.

Chief and Council need to be more involved in their community, such as attending long house meetings, traditional ceremonies, cultural events, special award and graduation ceremonies at schools. Our next generation should understand the roles of Chief and Council. This is something we all should WANT to do!

I attended the audit report last week and our audit shows that our reserve is in reasonably good financial standing. It did raise some questions for me, such as; Was the community involved in the decisions to invest in a Wind and Solar generations farms? For this new corporation that has been formed, who voted in the board of directors? Has anyone besides the board seen the charter for this new corporation? Will the financials be made public? I am sure the answer to a few questions is NO! Who sits on the board? Chief and Council! I can assure you that if I am elected the NO answers will turn to a YES! All this information should be public, and a new board be voted in. These are YOUR investments! Knowing the green energy industry, the return on this investment will be more than 20 plus years at the current rates. I am not disputing the fact that we need to generate our own monies, I am saying that the people should have been consulted and informed.

The growth in assets for the band office has grown which is great but where is the growth in the overall community? It has taken a long time to get a water treatment plant to give a few fresh water, we still have a long list of residents that need homes, we have built one new subdivision for affordable homes.

Our special education in our school is failing and parents are moving off territory to get their children the education they need and deserve just to mention a few.

## **Water**

The current Chief and Councils have already set an expansion plan of the Deseronto Water treatment plant as well as our own to service more homes, included in this expansion is Gas and Sewer going west to Shannonville. A water tower will be needed to service the homes going west. These plans will continue with a high priority.

## **Housing**

This has been a major issue for so many years. As I said earlier, we have had one new subdivision built. This is not enough! Families want to have a home of their own, they want to be able to leave something to their children and grandchildren. They struggle to either purchase land and put the services in or they struggle with a down payment.

\*A new home ownership program could help achieve their goal. A rent to own program would see a portion of their rent go towards their down payment and when the terms are completed, they must now apply for a mortgage, whether that is through MBQ or a bank.

\*We have many people that need home improvements done to their homes, heating, water holding tanks etc. Low interest loans need to be made available, so people are not living in impoverished homes.

I also noticed during the audit report that our mortgages holders are remortgaging through the Bank. Lower the interest rate to be competitive with the bank!

## **Education**

Special education is something that is very personal to me. I want to ensure we have the proper funding in place to guarantee that we are meeting the needs of the children that are in need. At this time, I can honestly say we are not. I know personally many families that have either moved off the territory or now drive their children to an off-territory school because QMS was not able to meet the needs. We will lobby for more funding and work to implement new programs where needed.

## **By-laws**

Our Territory is lacking in a few by-laws that need to be put into place which other reserves have already set in place. If we use the model from other reserves, it will be a quick and simple process to implement on our Territory.

- A residency by-law as these lands have been set apart for use and benefit of our people.
  - Trespassing
- These two by-laws would give more protection for our property and lands. Making it Police enforceable to remove unwanted people from our Territory.

## **Dispensaries**

The current businesses have created and will continue to create employment. Chief and Council must recognize this economic benefit this has had.

I can support and am willing to work together with the businesses that are currently established if we can come together to establish some guidelines. I am sure we all have some concerns and they need to be heard and addressed with an open mind.

We need REGULATIONS

Testing measures for safety concerns

Policy and procedures set

Employee Product training

Status member owned

A fund like the Tobacco fund but not administered by MBQ. A separate committee that has store owners, community members and one council member as some of the committee would be my suggestion. Let's work together to have a prosperous future for Tyendinaga.

Something that came to mind that would be a fun project for our people is what I called a Nourish Project!

This would be a community garden for growing traditional foods. It would not only nourish our bodies but also our minds! We are fortunate enough to have some knowledgeable people who are starting a seed bank that could help teach us about growing and then harvesting the seeds for future planting. It would be a benefit to all who participated, from our elders to our children. Bringing back some much-needed traditions to our lands. Remember our Elders will soon be our past and our children are our future, bring them together as it once was to share their knowledge and traditions!

About me: I am a small business owner. I hold a diploma in Business Administration and have worked in this field most of my career. I have worked in small business to large corporations managing hundreds of people. I am well versed in finance, human resources and human rights and employment standards.

My life has revolved around helping people. I volunteer and fundraise for several charities such as: The SIDS Foundation, Secret Santa for Seniors, Our Tyendinaga lacrosse Association and others.

This is my heartfelt promise to all of you, I will not give up my morals or my vision for our community to stand together once again! The time for change is now!