



STACIA L. LOFT (le'khahatakhe)

Greetings to our Community

Skennen,

le'khahatakhe niyonkyats. My English name is Stacia Loft and I am proud to call Kenhte:ke (Tyendinaga) my home. My parents are Darlene Maracle and Jim Loft. My grandparents are Betty and Arthur Loft, and Bertha and Garnet Maracle. My great-grandparents are Melba and Alfred James Loft, and Vellis and Mark Maracle. I am a proud mother, sister, auntie and wife. I was raised in Tyendinaga, and have lived in Thunder Bay, London, Dominica, and Toronto, for schooling and career opportunities.

As a Kanyen'keha:ka woman, I have seen the impacts of colonization on our people. I have experienced my own loss of culture, the inability to speak my language, the silencing of women's voices, and the loss of solidarity in our community. It is important that we remember that Tyendinaga is not a reserve. It is a Territory. We have the opportunity to come together and rebuild as a Nation, and work towards ending our dependency while asserting our autonomy.

As a young single mother, I have experienced struggles in finding housing, accessing food, obtaining child care, and making ends meet. I have learned that focus, drive and determination, can lead to positive impacts. My work over the years has been committed to empowering access to culture, language, education, employment opportunities, and financial independence, while ensuring fairness, transparency and accountability.

I am running for Chief because it's time for us as a community to move forward in a unified way. We must prepare the future generations to pick up the responsibilities of our Nation. The choices we make today impact us all tomorrow.

Stacia L. Loft

Biography

Experience

Stacia L. Loft is a community leader, with 15 years of strategic and operational management experience, and as a government relations expert. She began her career supporting Indigenous youth program development and delivery in Toronto and since then has held senior positions in the public and non-profit sector with a dedication to serving Indigenous communities. With great energy and relentless drive, Ms. Loft volunteers with several organizations, as Board Director for Kenhte:ke Midwives; as a Member of the Tyendinaga Native Women's Association; as a Clinical Extern at the Community Advocacy and Legal Centre in Belleville; and, as Co-President of Level: Changing Lives through Law at Queen's University.

Stacia has been proudly serving as Band Councillor, on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council since December 2015. As an experienced elected official, she has worked in collaboration with Chief and Council to impact positive change to Community Infrastructure, Health and Wellbeing, Education, Culture and Language, Housing, Economic Development, Land Claims Negotiations, Community Law-Making and Policy Development.

Skills

An accomplished negotiator and facilitator, Stacia has honed her skills in advocacy, collaborative team building, and strategic policy development working in partnership with First Nation leadership, provincial governments, federal departments and other agencies. She has deep knowledge of the justice system and its impact on Indigenous people, and has worked in various capacities in areas of mental health services, homelessness, and children and youth program and policy development. Stacia is highly skilled in strategic planning, evaluation, communications and media relations, and financial management.

Education

Stacia is a *Juris Doctor* candidate (Queen's University, 2020), and received her Bachelor of Arts, (Hons) from Western University in 2004. She holds several executive level certificates, including the Executive Certificate in Conflict Management, University of Windsor Law School.

Personal Interests

An avid runner, Ms. Loft has completed several 5km, 10km, half-marathons, and marathons. With a strong passion for music, particularly soul, funk and classic hip-hop, Stacia is steadily perfecting her DJ'ing skills. In pursuit of health and well-being, Stacia enjoys cooking and spending as much time as she can with her family. Life-long goals include continuing to learn Kanyen'ke:ha, Great Law Teachings, and ash-basket making.

Contact

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