

Chris Maracle – Council Candidate

My name is Chris Maracle, father of Christopher and Forest and proud grandfather to Lachlan and B. I am semi-retired, and self-employed as a housing advisor; I provide Canada-wide support to First Nation's and to the Federal Government in the area of home ownership strategic planning. Prior to this work, I was Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte's Director of Housing, Parks, Recreation and Band Property Maintenance for 17 years. During my tenure as a director, the band's housing program was recognized with 17 National and Provincial housing awards of Excellence in the areas of affordability and energy efficiency. I was honoured to be inducted into the R-2000 Hall of Fame for Leadership promoting energy efficiency and named Time Magazine and Natural Resources Canada's first ever recipient of Canada's Energy Efficiency Leadership Award.

During my time with our housing department, we helped hundreds of families realize their dreams of first-time home ownership and we built over 125 rental homes to the highest standards. Our housing program has contributed to approximately \$100 million worth of residential wealth and equity that is solely owned and controlled by our community. Nationally, MBQ is regarded as having the best First Nation housing program that many First Nation's across Canada dream about replicating.

Over the past 30 years I have observed and monitored the challenges with which our community is faced. I propose solutions, many that are tied to housing programs that would positively impact the lives and livelihoods of our MBQ. I'm also passionate about youth and sport. I've coached our children in lacrosse, baseball, and soccer. For those young people who are now eligible to vote, I encourage you to use your vote for positive change.

To action change I need you to elect me, and I'll need your ongoing support to implement change. I know change is scary for some, but none the less we are ready for well-thought-out change. The status quo will not result in meaningful opportunities for our future generations.

It's time for our community to explore and take advantage of many opportunities in our area. We are located within minutes of the busiest highway in Canada (HWY 401) and we enjoy the advantages of no income tax, no sales tax, no property tax. We have many skilled and well-educated young people who require jobs. We have become too dependent upon government subsidies and gaming revenues which puts our future in the hands of others and limits our ability to meet current and future needs and aspirations. I believe we need to develop a long-term strategic plan based upon sustainable development principals to grow our community and positively impact our residents.

True leaders have a vision and I envision a community with significant economic development, improved recreational opportunities, protecting our environment, and improving the health and safety of our community.

If given the opportunity, I'll provide trusted leadership and direction to focus upon the following initiatives and other community priorities:

- ✓ attracting outside investment to create new jobs
- ✓ enhancing our public transit
- ✓ implementing our own food security program (farming, orchards, and greenhouses)
- ✓ building affordable and appropriate housing
- ✓ establishing safe bicycle lanes along our roads
- ✓ implementing semi-annual general membership meetings

Tyendinaga - “many sticks bound together for strength” - together **we can** and **we will** achieve great things.

If you believe now is the time for us to achieve our full potential, if you believe our children, grandchildren and future generations deserve a community with opportunity to work and prosper, then I ask of you for the opportunity to work for and with you to create a truly vibrant and even greater community.

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