

AINSLEY LEWEEN

She:kon, my name is Ainsley Leween, and I was born into the Bear Clan to Lea Green and Brian Scott. At the age of 9 my mother married Donald Green and we moved to the Church Lane where I lived until I left home at the age of 15. My great grandparents were Frank & Cora Doreen and I have been married for 26 years to Farrell (Dick & Honey Leween). Together we have 2 beautiful daughters (Reagan & Dylan) and I am blessed to share his son Jacob and 3 amazing grand children, (Aiyana, Isaiah and Avaya).



As a current candidate for the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council I would like to give you the opportunity to get to know me by considering some of my values, beliefs, and life experiences.

I strongly believe that change needs to come from the top and as a previous MBQ employee of 20+ years, and over 10 years in other community-based organizations, I have the tools and knowledge to make that happen. I am currently semi-retired and have the time and dedication needed to represent members of the Mohawks of the bay of quite as an elected official.

My employment background includes Accreditation, Indigenous Homelessness, Policy Development, Employment & Training, Budget Management, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Housing, Membership, Administration, Social Services, Elections Canada /INAC Elections, Prior Learning Assessment, and a working relationship with the Ontario Regional Addictions Partnership Committee Board.

I have been a community volunteer for decades at many events such as the Mohawk Fair, Bingos, Tyendinaga Block Parent Program, and took on fundraising for several community members in need after overcoming a tragic event. and most recently, I was asked to reinstate the Annual Tyendinaga Pow Wow and with the support of an amazing committee, we had an estimated attendance of over 5,000 people.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

If elected, I intend to propose the creation of a self governing advisory board that consists of representation from the Longhouse, Elders/Story Keepers, Youth, Community Business Owners, Tsi Tyonnheht Onkwawen:na Language School, and the Kenhteke Seed Sanctuary who will select a representative to sit at the TMC table to provide feedback and considerations during every Council meeting to ensure transparency and accountability are prioritized With the input from a community advisory board we can create, instill and regulate community bylaws for the betterment of the people

EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT:

We need to put more value into our own People when recruiting MBQ employees and recognize the skills and knowledge obtained from previous life experiences, not just the level of academic degrees held.

HOUSING:

I intend to address the issue of homelessness by reviewing current MBQ Housing Policies and Procedures and the apparent sub leasing of MBQ owned rental homes.

Surviving a global pandemic has significantly changed our way of life and although we have been provided the opportunity to start again, our community remains “broken”. Lack of mental health services during and after decolonization and Covid 19 has only triggered inter generational trauma and as a result we are now facing a significant number of addictions and homelessness in our community.

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS:

I will propose the lobbying and funding to construct and develop an Indigenous led rehabilitation centre with aftercare and continued mental health services on the Territory.

RECREATION & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

Lobby for additional funding and resources to plan, develop and update existing recreational facilities and designate an area to create a spot for land-based learning activities that can be accessed and incorporated into the curriculum of all our education programs.

UNITY & STRENGTH:

I believe our community should support existing programs and services like the Language School and the Seed Sanctuary both of which are dedicated to revitalizing our inherent rights and values as well as the Justice Circle that is a recognized judicial support system for indigenous offenders.

I have a voice and I can and will use it to fight for our People! On December 2nd, vote

AINSLEY LEWEEN

for Council
