

We Can We Will 2023

I would like to thank and acknowledge the fine Mohawk women who nominated me for re-election to Council. Your confidence does not go unnoticed.

My campaign is premised upon Seven Generations teachings. Sustainability will be paramount & will provide me with great guidance in decision making.

Food, water & shelter are basic necessities of life. Chief Maracle, Council and our staff have done incredible work securing potable water for most households, with more and more coming on line each year. This has been a massive multiyear undertaking and it is coming to fruition. The finish line is in sight, and I will ensure we reach it.

We need to implement a food security strategy. Households should be encouraged to grow their own food when possible; our schools, elders lodge and struggling population could be supported with gardens, orchards and greenhouses. We were a sharing agricultural society, and pride ourselves as such.

Climate change is having significant and catastrophic consequences for all peoples - and much sooner than anticipated. We can do more by implementing energy efficiency initiatives, perhaps even developing renewable energy production here in the community.

We need to secure funding to create additional homes in currently identified & other development areas. The waiting list for homes only increases. We need to even more aggressive building homes. There is a housing crisis out there and it touches every one of us. If elected, I will lobby TMC to start phasing in the conversion of homes located within Huron Brant Drive towards eventual home ownership.

I believe a good portion of the recently acquired Culbertson Tract lands could be set aside with an idea to create at least 100 lots specifically for first time homeowners. This would provide significant socio-economic opportunities for our membership and wealth generation from the equity created through home ownership.

The community's revolving loan fund is the envy of every First Nation in Canada. We need to identify ways to enhance the Funds growth in order to meet the ever growing demand for housing loans. In the spring of 2024 the maximum loan amount will increase to \$350K per eligible applicant.

There are opportunities to receive funding to build homes off the Territory. If elected we can pursue affordable housing options for Members for example in Belleville or Napanee or further.

Community Safety: We are getting ever closer to establishing our own “stand alone’ police force. Negotiations are moving in a positive direction. Tyendinaga Police Services is drastically underfunded. I am proud to say I was on the hiring Committee for our 2 newest officers who are two fine young men from our community.

If elected, I will work towards bicycle & pedestrian lanes adjacent to our roadways. I will work to reduce speed limits & heavier enforcement of dangerous driving practices.

Our renewed Parks & Recreation Committee in partnership with the Tobacco Fund has been instrumental with numerous projects plus many others under consideration & planning. Stay tuned. Exciting things are on the horizon.

All parks equipment was replaced this year. By next spring our new splash pad will be operational as well as new and improved beach volleyball courts. Recreation is key to a healthy and vibrant community.

The past two years has seen numerous successes: Women in the trades built 2 award winning transitional homes at Red Cedars, two tiny homes will be placed in Shannonville, numerous rental homes have been built & many others under construction. The lacrosse box is receiving a retrofit; Powwow Committee has been reestablished & celebrated a very successful Pow Wow. We obtained a significant partial settlement of the Culbertson Land Claim. The compensatory amount received thus far gives the community many positive options.

There will be increased challenges ahead negotiating our land claims, policing, hunting, fishing rights, adequate funding for health, education, roads, infrastructure, tourism. The work never stops and I want to be a part of it. We can do a better job attracting outside investment to develop our industrial sector.

Where there are challenges, there are opportunities. With your support, I am confident we will continue to build a vibrant, prosperous, safe & healthy community for our children, grandchildren & future generations.