

Boozhoo. Mino Giizhigat. Waaskonaybiik n'digo bezhiik, Binesiiyanikatook n'digo niij, Name n'dodem.

Gichi Inendam Anishinaabekwe. Gii-miizhiyaang Bi-maadziwin.

I extend greetings to all community members and am grateful for the opportunity to run for Councillor of Michipicoten First Nation. I currently reside in Treaty 3 Territory, Kenora, ON. I am the mother of two adult sons, sister, auntie, cousin and friend to many. I am excited to become a Kokum for the first time in April. I enjoy spending time with family, attending my lodge and ceremonies and spending time outdoors. I also love to cook, sing, dance at pow wows, practice yoga and travel.

My roots at MFN originate from our ancestors and signatories of the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. My mother is Emily Robinson and father is Raymond Moreau. My grandmother Grace Robinson (born 1910) resided in our community but left the area in the 1920's with her father Alec Robinson to settle in Batchewana Bay. I grew up in Sault Ste. Marie as an infant and toddler but spent most of my years in Sudbury where my father worked in mining. Since I did not grow up in our community I was guided to conduct ceremony on our land over 15 years ago, which keeps me grounded there. I would like to thank all of my family for their support and my extended families Skead, Mandamin and Hunter from Treaty 3 Territory.



I wish to acknowledge the efforts and work of the current Chief and Council and all previous leaders who have committed to serve our membership. As a candidate for your Council, I bring many years of life and work experience forward to help guide your voting decision. I am a high school teacher at Wabaseemoong Independent Nations, OCT qualified. This year I am also responsible for implementing their new Adult Education/PLAR program. I have over 30 years of work experience in education, finance and business development. My formal education includes a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Education. I am also a certified Aboriginal Financial Manager with AFOA Canada. I am a founding Board member of the MFN Community Trust. I recently completed a three year term as Board member of Lake of the Woods District Hospital and have served for many years on a number of Friendship Centre and other organization boards and committees. I have dedicated my career and life to the self-sufficiency, advancement, health and well-being of the Anishinaabe Nation.

Some of the ideas I would like to see implemented for our community include:

- 1) Improve access to membership: a) use technology to conduct general Band meetings and engage with members on various subjects (Zoom or other platforms) - the pandemic has taught us that this can be done; b) create sub-offices in centres where many members reside – partner with other First Nations to locate these offices;

- 2) Explore decolonized governance structures to involve our membership more eg. advice and guidance based on family groups, kinship or clan system;
- 3) Support self-sufficiency of families/individuals: a) home ownership program (assist with equity/costs to obtain own mortgage financing off-reserve); b) utilize the MFN membership human resource inventory data to recruit/train/invest in members for all Band initiatives (staffing/projects/contracts); c) invest in education of our members;
- 4) Maintain our inherent right to self-government and recognition of the spirit and intent of our Treaty in all aspects of social, health, education and economic development.

My view on leadership is based on our own cultural teachings as Anishinaabe. It has been difficult to remain true to our cultural values given that we are governed under the Indian Act. However I believe that we have the ability to implement our own ways of governing that would support efforts to move forward, for the benefit of our Nation and membership. I am confident in my ability to bring balance and harmony as a leader of our community, to honour and respect those who have preceded us, those who are here and those yet to come. I look forward to participating in this year's election of Chief and Council. If you wish to contact me, have questions or comments, you can reach me at [sher.moreau@gmail.com](mailto:she.moreau@gmail.com) or on Facebook messenger. Best of luck to all of this year's candidates for Chief and Council and please stay safe everyone!

Apache gitchi-miigwech.

Sherry Moreau