

# Curtis “Chopper” Assance for BFN Council



Aanii, Boozhoo, Shingwaukoohns ndizhinikaaz, Chimnissing ndoonjibaa, Mukwa Doodem. I am the son of Arthur Manley Marks who was the son of Raymond Julius Marks and Margaret Marsden, and Sheila Madeline Assance who was the daughter of Roy Assance and Harriett King, all of whom were members of Beausoleil First Nation, then known as the Christian Island Reserve.

I acknowledge all my relations and I respectfully accept the nomination for Council that I have been honoured to have been given by my nominator Rhonda Copegog and my seconder Mabel King. Miigwetch! I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the current and previous Band Councils – chi-miigwetch!



For those who may not know me, my name is Curtis Assance and I was born in Midland. I grew up on the island until the age of 6 and our family moved away to Toronto for employment and education opportunities. We always came home in the summers to spend time with family and to reconnect with the land. I fondly remember playing KooKoosh ball, tree tag at my grandmother’s place, and swimming down at the dock and at the beaches.

After graduating from Weston Collegiate in Toronto, I attended Trent University which provided me with the educational foundation for my career in community economic development. For the past 30 years, I have worked for various First Nations and Indigenous organizations across Ontario. Currently, I work for the Waubetek Business Development Corporation and reside in Sudbury with my family. I have been alcohol free for over 32 years and lead an active life, walking each day, playing golf, curling and Fastball.

I am the Off Reserve Trustee for the Beausoleil Williams Treaty Settlement Trust (BWTST) since its inception in 2018. I consider the interests of all members and ensure that the Trust Deed provisions are adhered to. This has involved selecting investment managers and the restrictions we have placed on them for investments, providing quarterly updates to the Band Council as well as the Annual Engagement Session and Annual General Meeting with the membership. Despite the economic uncertainty during the pandemic, the BWTST has grown considerably and we are in good hands with our Trustee’s, Corporate Trustee’s and Investment Managers.

These are unprecedented times that we are living in and the impacts that COVID-19 has had not only on those members who are living in the community but also those members who are unable to return home. I recall hearing the stories about the Spanish Flu and how it decimated our community so I fully support the decisions made by the Emergency Operation Team for the protection of our people. We are resilient and will return stronger than ever before.

There are numerous issues that impact Beausoleil First Nation including housing, health, drinking water, waste disposal, transportation, and internet speed. If elected, I would bring my knowledge, experience and ideas to each issue and work for the benefit of all members. The following three issues are ones that I have a great deal of passion for including:

### ***Economic Development***

- Employment & training
- Partnership opportunities
- Acquisition of land

### ***Communications***

- Minutes
- Website
- Regular Zoom Meetings

### ***Education & Youth***

- Scholarships
- Language & culture
- Recreation

I have always been a team player as evidenced through the Islander fastball and hockey teams and I played where I was needed, usually on the bench in hockey :), and I do what is necessary to get the job done professionally, whether it be working late, or on weekends, or volunteering and am able to work together with those who may not necessarily share the same view.

I humbly ask for your support in this upcoming election. Please feel free to reach out to me and I will respond promptly. My social media feeds will illustrate my support for the issues I am passionate about (#GoLeafsGo) and, no matter the outcome of this election, I look forward to working with the leadership in advancing our community. N’kaanaginaa.



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