



Your vote counts! Your vote is one of the easiest ways to have a say in how your First Nation is governed.

Vote Mr. Andrew Copegog as Councillor for BFN Election!

Aaniin, All members of Beausoleil First Nation,

I would like to formally say Chi Miigwetch, to my nominator Ms. Erica Louttit and my seconder Mrs. Joanne Sandy, for having the faith and belief in me by putting my name forward for Councillor. I humbly accept and look forward to taking this journey with all members as we carefully determine and select who will be our leaders for the next council term. I provide you this bio to share with you a little about myself and ask for your support when casting your vote on Saturday, May 22, 2021.

My name is Andrew Copegog. I am the son of the late Hilda Copegog and Cyril Bourgeois, Grandson of the late Alex Copegog and Adeline (Monague) Copegog. I am the Husband of Paula (Assence) Copegog, Father of Katelynn and Ashton Copegog, Stepfather to Jordan Assence and Grandpa to Maci-Lynn. I am a kind, respectful, caring man who takes great pride in Family and Community. I am a graduate of Georgian College with academics in Health and Administration, a Graduate of Loyalist College with an Honorary Social Services Diploma, and a Graduate of Ryerson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. I currently am in the process of obtaining my Master's Degree in Social Work in the Indigenous Field of Studies Program with Sir Laurier University.

Currently, I am employed with Chigamik Community Health Centre in Midland, as their Indigenous Registered Social Worker. In this role I assist individuals with their Addictions and Mental Health needs with providing System Navigation and Case Management services to the Doctors and Nurse Practitioners. In the past I have held positions on Chimnissing as a Personal Support Worker, Fitness and Recreation Coordinator, House Parent/ Leader, Social Services Clerk/ Ontario Works Caseworker before being on council for the term of 2014-2016.

I come with over 15 years experience sitting on Urban Aboriginal Boards of Directors; holding various executive positions in our Urban Aboriginal Community within Health, Housing and Social Services. I have sat on the Beausoleil First Nation Education Advisory Committee, as a member and was an elected Councillor for Chimnissing previously for the term of 2014-2016. While on council I held the portfolios of Education, Transportation and Governance. I chose not to seek re-election in 2016 as I was completing my last year of my Bachelor's in Social Work Degree and was just recently married to my beautiful wife Paula.

While being on various Boards, Committees and past Council, I had to make decisions that effected the lives of our people. When it comes to decision making, I look at the past, present and future and how it would apply to each request or concern. I do this with a positive outlook, and with the best of intentions. I will continue to do this and more- moving forward for all members!

I am sure at one time or another you have all quietly sat back thinking or talking about **Community Growth**, haven't you? I'm here to help you visualize and bring forth an understanding of those thoughts and concerns. A fresh point of view; a person that will listen, hear, and convey your message loud and clear and become part of making it happen!

My vision if elected to council is serve all members on or off Beausoleil First Nation. I will focus on bridging the unity within our community. I will focus on breaking down barriers that prevent us from moving forward. One of our Grandfather Teachings is Honesty; I humbly pledge that I will continue to follow this teaching as well as incorporating the remaining 6 Grandfather Teachings into my everyday contributions to building a brighter and prospering community. ***I will take a community first approach!***

We need a Chief and Council that will lobby the government. We need to push to keep what we have and not lose any more monies to areas that affect our lively hold. We need to review our own source revenues and see where we can improve and implement new areas to become one day financially independent. Year after year, we talk about our roads and the need to have them paved, why is this being ignored? I still believe a new school is needed on the island, from daycare to Grade 8. ***All this can be achieved with the right leadership that Chimnissing deserves. This I promise I will do loud and clear in a respectful, positive way.***

Remember this face and my name! I am fair in my decision making, transparent, honest, and accountable. I will go the extra mile for all members assisting in economical growth that will bring us into a new and better future. I am that candidate that will reach out and grow the community!

I like the language of growth. I like the language of reaching out. That is the language I speak.

Should you have any questions, ideas, or concerns that you would like to discuss please reach out to me. I can be reached via email at andrew-copegog@outlook.com

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the accomplishments and hard work of this current Chief and Council.

If elected I intend to work closely with the newly elected chief and council and will provide a new perspective as an individual who intends to make a difference while listening and assisting where and whenever possible.

Goodluck to all.

Miigwetch,
Andrew Copegog