



Boozhoo Ahniin
Chimnissing Membership;

I would like to take this time to accept my nomination for BFN Chief and Council 2021 Campaign. I am both honored and humbled and want to thank my nominator (Mr. Andrew Copegog) and my seconder (Ms. Halie Mixemong), it means a lot to me, that I have your belief and confidence to do this important work for the betterment of our Community.

My name is Paula Assence (Copegog), I am the daughter of Verna Peters and Clarence William James Assence Jr. My paternal grandparents were Clarence William James Assence Sr. and Agnes York and my maternal grandparents were Clifford Peters and Eva Judge. I am a proud Anishinaabe Kwe. I was born and raised in Toronto, ON., having said that, I have always been connected to our community. I spent many summers growing up here, I have good relations with the land and its membership. I am blessed to be able to call this Island my home. I have lived and worked both on and off reserve(s). My mother always kept me involved in cultural activities and it has always been a part of my identity and who I am becoming.

In 2014, I made a decision to move back home to be closer to family, friends and community. That year I met my husband Andrew Copegog and we got married in 2015. Together, we have three adult children and one granddaughter, we are proud homeowners in Penetang. We come to the Island as much as possible to visit family, friends and also for community involvement. I enjoy participating in any events that are happening and I like to help out as much as possible. I have so much love and pride for my community and all its members.

Education and Experience

Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies with a Governance Certificate from the University of Alberta, that I love to utilize. I also possess a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Justice from Laurentien University that helps with the familiarity of the Justice systems. One of my beliefs is lifelong learning, I plan on learning as much as possible regarding Chief and Council issues and concerns. Currently, my professional role is as a Justice Case Manager with Enaahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre where I have been employed for the last five years. I absolutely love my position there and love to represent the Lodge and the work that is done there.

Why vote for me

- ✓ Give the people a voice
- ✓ Active listener, advocator
- ✓ Fair, open and accountable
- ✓ Good health
- ✓ Energy to do this work
- ✓ Positive Role Model
- ✓ Negotiator, great communicator
- ✓ Team player
- ✓ Good sound judgement
- ✓ Great decision making skills
- ✓ Promote Health and Wellness

My future endeavors and goals is to help strengthen our community and strive to see a healthy prosperous community full of love and well-being for all seven generations. I want to help the community become self-reliant and self-sufficient. I understand that these are large issues but want to express my interest for the long term.

I am a trained Yoga Instructor/Reiki Master and have been given the gift to help people restore health, wellness and balance back into their lives through regular practice. In order to give back, I have been offering free yoga via Zoom Friday evenings. This has helped me with owning my own business *Friday Yoga* and making a plan for a healthier tomorrow.

If you want to hear more, I invite you to listen to the BFN Candidates forum via Zoom on April 27, 28 and 29th, 2021. Make your voice count and vote for me on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Chi-Miigwetch and Good Luck to all candidates.