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**Dear Elders, Leaders, Grandparents, Families, Youth and Children:**

Firstly, I would like to thank my nominator, Alisha Cass and seconder, Sherry King, for this opportunity. My name is Shelley Essauce and I am the granddaughter of Vance and Lottie Essauce. My Grandfather grew up here, and in 1919, after losing his mother in the pandemic of the Spanish Flu, he lived with his Auntie Isobel and Uncle Albert Monague when they were first married and he also lived with Clifford Peter's family before he was sent to Residential School at Shingwauk in Sault Ste. Marie. My father is Vance-baa Essauce, also known as Sonny. My husband of 35 years is Yvon Lamarche and he is a retired RN after 40 years of community service. I have two sons, Gabriel and Louis. Gabriel and his wife Darian, from a northern First Nation community, live in Saskatoon and Louis and his fiancée, Katelynn live with us. We are blessed to have five adopted grandchildren in Saskatchewan ranging in age from 2 to 16 years old.

After 100 years of absence from this community, my family and I moved here in 2019, and are living on Niigig Miikan. We have also lived in the unceded Ktunaxa territory in BC, and with the Woodland Cree of Treaty 6 in Saskatchewan, and we are grateful for the teachings we received.

I have a strong background in both environmentalism and in social welfare. I have worked for Parks Canada in three provinces and I've worked with children and families in Saskatchewan, where I provided early childhood curriculum to families and caregivers. I also developed and delivered a gardening program for the Cree and Dene children in my neighbourhood in the inner city of Prince Albert. I've taken environmental studies courses and Climate Reality Training with Al Gore, and this has helped to develop an environmental

lens. Additionally, I've worked at the Assembly of First Nations as the National Climate Change Coordinator. The Indigenous Social work courses I've taken have helped me understand the impact that colonization has had on our children, families, women and men, community, environment, and leadership. This background has led me to work for Child and Family Services in both capacities as a Family Well-Being Worker and the Child and Family Services Coordinator.

I have been alcohol and drug free since 1990, seeking mno bimaadiziwin and am second degree Midewiwin. I've been an advocate for social justice for decades. In 2009, you may remember that I was a Dumpsite 41 camp founding member along with Beth Elson, Vicki Monague, Sara Monague and Pauline Monague. We joined the local settlers opposing the landfill and camped in a farmer's field for 5 months with my family. This activism was successful in overturning the dump decision. Elders such as Gloria, Rosanne and Leon-baa, helped guide us through that process.

I've heard the community outcry over the garbage issues at the dump. I've seen that our community needs more housing, a place for emergency shelter, more respite homes for children and youth and employment opportunities. I participated in the committee that supported a proposal for a Women's Shelter. We have a Community Vision in draft form that needs finalization. We have a Land Code to develop and implement. Working together as a team on council, one of the issues that I would like to work towards is sustainability, food sovereignty and food security with the hunters, trappers, foragers, gardeners and the community garden.

I am dedicated, professional, a hard worker, and I am committed to supporting our community on the path to bimaadiziwin, living the good life, as the Elders have intended for us. I am a team player and am strength based. If the community decides that this is what is needed on council, I would be honoured to serve. If you have any questions or ideas to discuss I'd love to hear them. Chi'miigwech, Shelley Essauce