

Aaniin Chimnising,

For those who are not familiar with me, my name is Tori Cress. I live on beautiful Chimnissing and I work for our community in the Trust Office. I am the daughter of Mabel King and Tim Cress, mother to Lucas and Marty, grandmother to Noodin Mukwa, sister to lots of siblings and aunty to many. My current working role in the Beausoleil Trust Office is the Nookmis Program Coordinator and I also provide Communications Support as the social media specialist. I am an engaged community member on the island sharing my time and skills in a volunteer capacity and in the larger community off of the island as well.



I am a gardener, a beekeeper, a harvester, a bead crafter, a food preserver and an all-around supporter of food sovereignty, especially on this semi-isolated small island community. I have lived in a major city, a farming town, a small town, a remote town, a reserve that is not my own and now I live on my own reserve here Christian Island. This lived experience is an asset in understanding the challenges and the connectedness of being a Beausoleil First Nation member no matter where you geographically call home.

Prior to my work for Beausoleil First Nation, I was a front-line Indigenous rights activist and the lead contact for the national Idle No More (INM) communications team. I have worked with Indigenous communities and organizations collaboratively across North America fighting resource extraction happening without Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) on our territories, raising awareness of the MMIWG2S epidemic and helping to support the fight to protect clean water. I continue to work on the national INM communications team in a volunteer capacity and I continue to advocate for Indigenous Rights especially around federal framework legislation that consistently lacks FPIC on Canadian laws that will directly impact our lives, our right to self-determination, our lands and our waters.

My passion is communication work not only for Chimnissing but also for grassroots initiatives I support and actively participate in. I have been growing my communications skills from barely having any sort of skill to becoming a social media specialist and a story-based strategist. My education in communications came to me through sponsored invitations and I gratefully accepted these offers for education and training with the Center for Story-Based Strategy in California and the ReFrame Mentorship program in New York. I have worked with amazing activists from all over North America and have also developed international friendships and working relationships within Indigenous rights networks.



I am interested in becoming your next BFN councillor because I believe my strength in communications would be an asset to help create a deeply meaningful engagement process between the Office of the Council and the members of Beausoleil First Nation. The majority of

us are engaged in the online world in some capacity and it is the youth who continue to lead the way in digital engagement with the newest smartphone apps while others, when it isn't a global pandemic, prefer in-person engagement opportunities. I know there is a way to build a solid foundation of balanced community engagement and the abundance of online tools we use now are tools we must continue to develop to be as inclusive to, and engaged with members as possible.

I am open to conversations with community members in several ways. Digitally, I am available through [Facebook Messenger](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [email](#), Skype and Zoom. You can also text me at 705-706-0175 and we can set up a time to chat. I am available outside of BFN administration hours in eastern daylight savings time and I very much look forward to hearing from you.

G'Chi-Miigwech to my mother, Mabel King for her unwavering confidence in my leadership skills and to Cheryl McCue as well for lifting me up as a BFN councillor candidate in the upcoming election.

Miigwech,

Tori Cress