



Naawigiizhigo Kwe Ndizhnikaz ~ Waabzheshii Ndoodem

Whitney Walsh

Council Candidate for Beausoleil First Nation's 2021 Election

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Aaniin,

I am honored to share more of myself with you and wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Karen Sandy and Rob Copegog for their nomination. My spirit name is Naawigiizhigo Kwe "Lady of the Noon Day". I am Anishinaabekwe from the Martin Clan and presently reside on Beausoleil First Nation. I am mother to Peyton and Avery Walsh and daughter of H. Neil and the late, Peggy Monague. While being raised on Christian Island, I acknowledge that much of my identity and purpose has been shaped by the investment and encouragement of our community. Having lived off reserve for the past 13 years, it has been my desire is to return home with the knowledge I have gained and utilize it as a voice for our members.

I am currently employed as a Circle Facilitator with Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child Family Services. The role offers the ability to observe diverse experiences from a neutral perspective and ensures all voices are represented through the circle process. While pursuing an education and career in the field of Social Work, I had the honor of serving our community through employment with Beausoleil First Nation's Social Service Department. The role as an Ontario Works Caseworker and Band Representative certainly offered a valuable experience that shaped a new direction for my responsibility as a community helper. I also had the opportunity to support our off-reserve families through the Georgian Bay Native Women's Association, co-creating a culturally based program that advocated for Indigenous Women involved in the Child Welfare System and Violence against Women Sector. Much this work required collaborative efforts to build partnerships with our local agencies, police services and community organizations. As an off-reserve member, maintaining a connection to Beausoleil First Nation was priority. In the role as a volunteer, addressing community safety concerns, building relationships and assisting in strategy initiatives was part of the experience while serving on committees such as the Chiminissing Police Committee, Walking with our Families- BFN shelter initiative and the Crime Stoppers Board for Simcoe Muskoka Dufferin. Through this summarized version of my professional journey, I would like to present you with some of my key areas of priority and interest:

- To assist in the development of Community Based Standards for FN Service Delivery
- Revisit and revise existing policies to meet our community's Social and Economic needs
- Prioritize prevention and intervention services and ensure access to resources is a balance between process, transparency and equality for members, considering all life stages- Elders, Children, Youth, Women and Men
- Revitalization of cultural knowledge and implementation within administration and community planning
- To address the main concerns of Community Safety and Security

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of our current Chief and Council and the leadership who came before us. Alongside our members I hold a vision for community where change begins with the voice of the collective, whose narratives are honored, respected and integrated into daily practice. If elected as your Council member, I aim to support your Vision and speak for the desired outcomes you wish to be upheld. It is with great honor that I accept this nomination and on May 22, I hope to have your support during our 2021 Beausoleil First Nation General Election. No matter the outcome, I will continue to be committed to our community in various capacities. I look forward to sharing more with you in the upcoming weeks, please feel free to connect with me on social media or by email at w.walsh.monague@gmail.com.

Chi Miigwech,

Whitney Walsh