

# Curtis Assance — Council Candidate for Beausoleil First Nation

“Nogdawendamowin—we are taking care of each other.”



## Curtis Assance aka “Chopper”

**Aanii, Boozhoo, Shingwaukoohns ndizhinikaaz, Chimnissing ndoonjibaa, Mukwa Doodem.** I am the son of Arthur Manley Marks who was the son of Raymond Julius Marks and Margaret Marsden, and Sheila Madeline Assance who was the daughter of Roy Assance and Harriett King, all of whom were members of Beausoleil First Nation, then known as the Christian Island Reserve

I acknowledge all my relations and I humbly accept the nomination for Council that I have been honoured to have been given by my nominator Tori Cress and my seconder Erica Louttit. Miigwetch! I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the current and previous Band Councils – Chi-miigwetch!

Currently, I am the Off Reserve Trustee for the Beausoleil Williams Treaty Settlement Trust since inception in 2019. I am very proud of the work that the trustees have done for the betterment of our community.

I graduated from Trent University in 1992 with a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and Native Studies. Since then I have worked in the field of Economic Development for various First Nations and Indigenous organizations. Currently, I am the Director of Lands & Economic Development at Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. Through these positions, I have gained experience, knowledge and skills to serve as a Councillor for Beausoleil First Nation if elected.

I lead an active lifestyle, playing fastball, curling and golfing. Sports have taught me the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship which also applies to work and community service. I strongly believe in being a role model to youth so I exercise regularly, eat well and have been alcohol free for almost 35 years, and have never touched drugs.

## Chopper’s PLATFORM

### Governance & Administration

In my experience, Governance and Administration work well when there is a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. My goal for BFN Council is to support the administration without micromanagement. Directors and Managers need to be given the responsibility to oversee their departments and budgets and if there is any variance then it must be brought to Council for an amendment.

Band employees need to be properly compensated and treated with respect. Policies and Laws that have been developed for Beausoleil First Nation need to be administered without prejudice for all members and staff.

### Consultation

The community must be consulted on matters such as the Trusts, the lands, the waters that surround us, and transportation. Members must have the opportunity to bring their concerns to Band Council meetings. Right now, Council meetings are held during the day which is not convenient for many.

It is my goal to move Council Meetings to Wednesday evenings, every other week and available for membership via Zoom or in-person for the 2023 to 2027 BFN Council. Council will still meet as required for Trust and/or other scheduled meetings.

### Economic Development & Lands

Beausoleil First Nation is ideally located in one of the most pristine bodies of water with great beaches and tourism opportunities but we have yet to capitalize on these assets.

With my experience and network, I foresee the creation of an Economic Development Corporation that will oversee the opportunities that exist for us on our territory but also on the mainland through the Additions to Reserve policy. Can you imagine us having a footprint in one of the urban areas in Simcoe County and the economic opportunities that it would present? I can and all I can say is SKODEN and STOODIS.

### Culture & Reconciliation & Youth

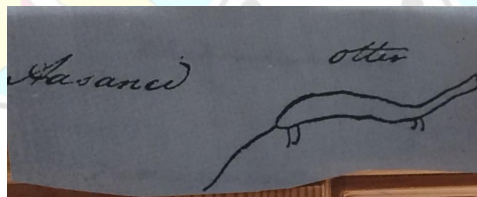
Guided by the teachings passed down to me from my parents and grandparents, my goal is to work for the advancement of our people, in particular our most vulnerable. This includes our youth, our elders, those with addictions and those who are less fortunate than others.

This can be achieved through our culture, being kind, compassionate and respectful. We MUST work together for the betterment of all members whether they live on Christian Island or far away. We are all related and we are in this together.

### How it can be Achieved

My goal to work for the betterment of the community no matter the issue. I possess the ability to work professionally and impartially no matter the history and background.

I know firsthand of the intergenerational trauma that our people have suffered at the hands of the Government, the Church and Society but we also have intergenerational strength to overcome and succeed in the face of adversity. It is my commitment as Council to provide the resources for our Youth to become successful and realize their potential. This can be achieved through creating additional sources of Own Source Revenues and utilizing exist Trust income payments and accessing available funding opportunities.



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