



## Marla Mae Monague - Candidate for Council 2023

Aniin, Boozhoo, Bi-waabang Naangoohns dizhnikaaz. My name is Marla Monague and I have accepted a nomination to be considered for a seat on council in this year's election. For those that don't know me, my parents are Dave Sylvester and Sharon Monague and I grew up right here on Chimnissing. I now live what I call a, "hybrid life" where I live and work between Toronto and here.

I attended elementary school at CIES and later boarded out to attend (and graduate) from St. Theresa's High School in nearby Midland. Subsequently, I attended post secondary and obtained a diploma from Georgian College in Community and Social Development and an art school certificate from the Blanche MacDonald Centre.

I am someone who likes to keep busy and I strive to learn and experience new things as much as possible. Throughout my career I have done everything from retail management and hospitality stints to health policy and research development. I've also spent years in administrative roles and supported political tables with executive functioning. A lot of this experience is due to my time at the [Chiefs of Ontario](#) where I worked in various capacities for over a decade, notably executive coordination and strategic development within policy and communications. It has given me thorough exposure to First Nation governance and provincial and national politics.

Over the course of the pandemic, I worked with the [Association of Ontario Midwives](#) as a policy analyst in Indigenous midwifery and most recently, I've joined the team at the [Anishinabek Nation](#), as a communications strategist in the political office. I am a writer by nature, I love storytelling and you will often find me writing at the kitchen table or in a corner somewhere with a laptop or notebook in front of me.

Sitting around the boardroom table since I was a teen, I have direct experience participating in both support and advisory capacities with councils, working groups, committees and board of directors. I am very proud to have spent a term on the board of directors at [Anishinawbe Health Toronto](#) while they were working towards achieving a new health centre. I believe in fair and equitable governance and my own approach to leadership is entrenched in Anishinaabe values and principles and is wholistic in scope.

I have no self interest in pursuing this role other than fulfilling the responsibility I have to the children and young peoples in my life. It is time to share the knowledge I have gained both from my career endeavours and from my mentors and Elders. We as Anishinaabe peoples, share a collective belief of keeping the next seven generations in mind in all of our efforts. I believe in evolving structures and systems so that when they get to the table, they do not have to waste time with irrelevant processes and restrictive policies and can focus on mobilizing their top priorities. Their future is going to be so different than ours and I don't want to create or sustain existing barriers that may impede the work they will have to do.

I don't believe in making promises, but I can guarantee that I will uphold the best interests of the entire community in my decision making and be an equal representative to all of us, regardless of where we reside. I believe in creating strong teams and that tremendous things can be accomplished when we unify our efforts and strive towards a common vision. I will be a strong voice at the table and a compassionate ambassador within our community.

I have always proudly represented BFN no matter where I go and it would be an absolute honour to represent us a leader and to support our council to the best of my ability. I would be humbled if you would consider voting for me on June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [marla\\_monague@hotmail.ca](mailto:marla_monague@hotmail.ca). Miigwetch and hope to see you around soon!