



Aaniin Fellow Band Members of Georgina Island,

For those of you who do not know me my name is Benson Big Canoe, and I am running for re-election on Council in Georgina Islands' 2021 Election. I grew up on Georgina Island where I currently reside with my fiancée and two beautiful children. Growing up I spent a lot of time on our lake from fishing with my grandfather at a young age to checking the ice thickness with my father. Travelling across in the uncertain seasons is our way of life and I strive to make it as safe and comfortable for our membership as I can. Currently, I hold the Transportation, Public Works, Water Treatment, Recreation and Hunting/Fishing portfolios. I graduated from Georgian College with an Advanced Diploma in Business Administrative Accounting. During my two terms on council, my financial background has been sharpened. I have built a strong sense of business management as well as Financial Investments and I believe that these strengthen my ability to safely manage the First Nations monies and the budgets within my portfolios.

During my six years in office some of the projects I have accomplished, with the support of Chief and Council, are as follows:

- I am proud and honored to say that as a team current Chief and Council have invested a portion of the Williams Treaty Monies for the purpose of supporting our on and off reserve elders aged 65+ with monthly payments to help assist them financially.
- Advocated to increase the recreation budget at Coldwater meetings to ensure all our youth on and off reserve have access to funding that can support them in their extracurricular activities.
- Resurfaced 7km of roadway that needed repair on the First Nation.

- Secured 7 million dollars through various funding sources and upgraded our water treatment facility on the First Nation.
- Restored and paved the Island landing and designed the transportation shop that houses our scoots and transportation equipment.
- Had a proper boat launch designed and built on the Island for the membership to use.
- Sourced out new modes of winter travel, band side by sides, to make life more convenient for membership to cross the ice while keeping safety at the forefront. They are also a much more comfortable ride for our elders than the Airboats.
- Restored and expanded Sandy Beach for the membership to enjoy, added a playground for our youth.
- Planned and had a large toboggan hill created to give our youth something else to enjoy during the winter months.
- Purchased and put out fish huts every year for all membership to enjoy.
- Purchased new equipment (tractor, track steer, work truck) for the public works department to enhance the work they do.
- Purchased two additional airboats to ensure we had safe travel in our transitional seasons.

Some of the projects I would like to expand on and accomplish are as follows:

- Finish resurfacing the remainder of the roads on the First Nation.
- Build a larger public works building to house all our public works equipment and expand the public works yard to better fit the community's needs.
- Be a part of the bridge project to ensure the membership has a safer more reliable means of transportation to and from the First Nation.
- Establishing a hunting and fishing committee and connecting some of our membership to one another. I was taught to hunt and fish at a very young age and I would like to share that knowledge. Hunting and Fishing is something that I believe is a very strong part of our heritage and who we are as indigenous people. Unfortunately, not everyone has had the opportunity to learn. Sharing of knowledge and mentorship is

something that I think can be attained through connecting people. My goal and vision are to put some funding behind these initiatives and to help those who have not had the chance to learn get the opportunity to do so.

- The second stage of the Water Treatment Project is to get water to the East side via extending the watermain. I am currently in negotiations with ISC and believe that we will receive the funding to finish this project which would provide all the membership on the reserve with access to potable drinking water.
- Continue working on Sandy Beach.
- Continue to strengthen and enhance the communication with all membership to ensure everyone is informed and involved in community events and available programs.

These are just my ideas on what I would like to see accomplished. As councilor I work for the people and take direction from the people. I encourage all membership to send me an email or give me a call to discuss your ideas and what you would like to see in this next term of office. If re-elected I will do my best to ensure that your voices are heard.

It has truly been a privilege to work for our people these past 6 years. The decisions we make today pave the way for our future and our future generations to come. I hope that I can continue to be a part of these decisions and I would be honored to have your support in this coming election.

Gchi-Miigwetch for your time and consideration,

Benson Big Canoe

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