



Lauri Hoeg for Council

Aaniin Georgina Island Band Member,

With Gratitude, I have accepted my nomination in the upcoming Georgina Island election on March 16th, 2021. I am currently serving my 3rd term on Council and would humbly like to request your support so I may continue working for all the membership who reside far and wide.

I have worked in First Nation government now for 30 years and completed an honours degree in First Nation Governance and Administration from Ryerson University. I also hold the seat as the first Indigenous Trustee for the York Region District School Board.

I am proud to be part of a Council that has achieved many accomplishments to benefit our members. Over the past term they include expansion of the Island view Business Center, building a community fitness center, improving roads, prioritizing clean water for the entire community and we are currently working at achieving high speed internet access.

We have taken many steps in exercising our rights as a Nation. We created our own Constitution which gives us the ability to make our own laws and we recently passed our own education law and taxation law for leaseholders. We manage our trusts effectively and invest wisely such as purchasing real estate and implementing programs like the senior's stabilization fund.

But there is more work to do. Mental health is a crisis and we are not immune. We need more mental health supports and expertise to assist in building a strong mental health team and a strategically thought out program for healing. Recently, through the Rowe Institute I studied Indigenous trauma informed counselling to deepen my understanding of our community mental health needs.

I am a strong supporter of having safe travel for members and believe a fixed link will save many lives and offer a brighter future and more opportunities for our children.

Education and Culture are my passion. After many years of advocating for a learning center to replace our aging school that was once the Indian Day School, and the deficient childcare center my vision is coming to light with securing of 10 million dollars in government funding. Currently in the final design stages the learning center will be home to three main spaces, a childcare center, a school from grades K-6 and a cultural literacy center for the entire community where we will deliver language and cultural programming. The building will also include a visiting elder's space and a lodge. The center will be located on 33 acres with ample land-based learning opportunities and is slated to be open by the end of 2022. I hope to have the opportunity to continue this exciting work for our community!

I have always believed in the power of education to change lives and will continue to advocate for increasing the post-secondary funding each year so that all members can have access to a post-secondary education.

As a Council member and Trustee, I will continue to advocate on behalf of all our students who attend provincial school. In this role, I have found myself becoming passionate in the fight against systemic racism and am completing a Human Rights course at York University which is broadening my understanding and ability to be a social justice advocate.

I have enjoyed contributing to community events, assisting with the elder's dinner, providing cultural openings, delivering cultural workshops and putting on a yearly pow wow. This past year has been difficult as the pandemic has hampered our activities especially the ones that bring us joy and instill a sense of community. We have done an exceptional job of staying well and safe and I am looking forward to when we can gather again.

I believe in a positive proactive approach to leading change and find my values in our teachings and strength in my family. I am excited for all the candidates who are offering their gifts to share and I urge everyone to cast their vote!

We are all one drum and we need each other.

(Richard Wagamese)