

## Mukwa Geezis 2021

*MandaKwe Indizhinikawz, muskinozhe giigohn indodem.  
Azhoniyaang indonjibaw gaye Neyaashiinigiing nojemowaning.  
Gagegay Ojibwe AnishinaabeKwe indow.*

### Shelley Charles Mandakwe



### Aaniin, Boozhoo, Sago!

I am proud and privileged to be a member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. My family, like all of yours, has lived on this land for generations. I cherish the fact that we are able to select our own leaders and humbled that I have been asked to lend my abilities to serve the people of our First Nation.

I have held responsible positions in education, the arts, culture and executive management for over thirty years; I have raised over 10 million dollars for educational centres, gathering spaces, artistic installations in the landscape and centres of innovation. I have extensive experience dealing with institutions and government agencies at all levels and have travelled internationally to represent Canadian Indigenous culture abroad. I recently completed an executive leadership training course in Kelowna.

It has been my honour to have worked as a Community Elder for the past fifteen years serving the people and local communities in ceremony, openings and sharing cultural teachings, language and philosophy in the classroom.

As our Council makes decisions that affect the future and well-being of our community, I feel that my experience and training will allow me to make a positive contribution in service of all our interests, and the interests of those yet to come. Furthermore, engagement of Band Member is needed in moving forward with all of the exciting projects and programs, and their contributions must be sought out – I pledge to make consultation with the community my very first priority.

Indigenous culture, education, creating and sharing opportunities, is not only my passion but my expertise. Having won a national award for excellence in Indigenous Knowledge for my work in education with youth and our communities. It has been my privilege to teach culture and language at an Indigenous Institute in Mohawk territory – to help develop leadership skills and a solid foundation in cultural knowledge in our young pilots at the School of Aviation.

If I am honoured to be selected to serve on Council, I will always strive to do the best I can to be of good service to our People. If you would like to speak with me about any issue that concerns you, I would welcome your call – my number is (647) 229-7092 or email: [mandakwe@gmail.com](mailto:mandakwe@gmail.com)

Apchigo GichiMiigwetch - Shelley Charles

## Career Highlights include:

- 1994- 2004** **Executive Director**, Association for Native Development in the Performing & Visual Arts (ANDPVA)
- 2005-2007** **Lead Facilitator**, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT)
- 2006-2008** **Elder & Cultural Teacher**, Corrections Canada, Grand Valley Institute for Women (GVI)
- 2008-2019** **Dean**, Indigenous Education & Engagement, Indigenous Elder, Advisor on Aboriginal Relations, Humber College
- 2015 - 2019-** **Visiting Elder, Traditional Teacher**, Waabgon Gamig School, Georgina Island  
**Cultural Advisor, Instructor**, First Nation's Technical Institute, (FNTI) School of Aviation
- 2020-** **Elder, Indigenous Women in Agriculture**, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)

## Significant Achievements

- Conceived, created and sustained Aboriginal Resource Centres at Humber College; through fundraising activities, and partnerships, secured over \$7,000,000 for Indigenous initiatives
- Increased the annual Indigenous student enrollment ID at Humber from 50 to 650
- Designed and implemented 1<sup>st</sup> residential camp for elementary students from forty First Nation communities across Ontario to experience post- secondary education opportunities
- Established 1<sup>st</sup> land-based education program Indigenous Plant Restoration reintroducing Native species back in the landscape
- Designed 1<sup>st</sup> *Ojibwe* Language Proposal Initiative with a focus on land-based knowledge and teachings with Canadian Heritage, 2018
- Created opportunities for new and emerging Indigenous artists to exhibit and market their work; raised over \$3,000,000 for promotion of Indigenous art & culture
- Working with Elders and sharing teachings in First Nation communities across Canada including the east coast
- Indigenous Advisor for McMichael Art Gallery, Branksome Hall and York Region District School Board
- Trustee, Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee, Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks, Ontario
- Developed national gardening program for Indigenous Women in Agriculture across Canada and the U.S
- Designed cultural models for community engagement based on Indigenous knowledge & philosophy
- Award of Excellence in Indigenous Knowledge, Colleges & Institutes Canada, 2015

Proud Mother to Nawzhaywub, Bizhew and Kokum to M'Noden, Bemassigge and Ella

