



# Debbie Mayer

*Candidate for Chief*

Aanii, my name is Debbie Mayer and I am your candidate for Chief of Mississauga First Nation. I have experience serving Mississauga First Nation in some way for over 30 years. I've been the Education Director for the past 10 years, but before that I was a Community Planner, a Councillor, Band Manager, and worked in employment and training for the North Shore Tribal Council.

I am choosing to stand for the position of Chief because I feel the need to ensure a strong, clear message from the people of Mississaugi to be communicated to all levels of government to address the diminishing respect of the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty.

This message should come from you, the members of Mississauga First Nation. I believe in discussing, gathering to work towards our own vision of our future as a collective. Your opinion on the various issues facing us are vitally important, and I commit to a role as advocate for the issues being brought forward. I will commit to listening and hearing your voice on these issues and will work towards finding a solution to your concerns and developing a clear message on the issues. I believe in the importance of reporting to the Community on activities and working with the elected Councillors moving to a better and brighter tomorrow.

I have lived near Mississauga First Nation my entire life and have lived on the reserve for the past 15 years. I participate in as many community events as possible and am proud to tell everyone I am an Anishnaabekwe from this community. My name is Shooting Star Woman and I am still on a learning journey for traditional knowledge. I am learning Anishnabemowin and our history as people of Mississauga First Nation. I believe in life-long learning and will continue to learn along the way with your help and guidance. Anyone who knows me, knows I am honest and straight forward about the issues, and how we as a community can move forward together.

I believe that we should understand our own history, and know where we are today in order to look to the future. Our strength is our Youth and our knowledge is our Elders and our way forward is our Community as a whole. It is important to recognize that our Community is not only those who live and work here but those who live in the rural and urban centres wherever that may be, in the province of Ontario, Canada or the world. As members of Mississauga First Nation your voice is important, your knowledge of our history is important, and your opinion is important.

In my family life I have three children. My first born was a son who passed at birth, his name was Douglas. My daughter Laura who is, I'm proud to say a lawyer and has chosen to return home to work for Mississauga First Nation advancing the work started by many sitting at tables in this community to assume jurisdiction in all areas that affect daily living. My youngest is Michael, who is advancing his education in Computer Science and is currently working within the Education Department. I have welcomed three beautiful grandchildren; Leland, Theodore (Teddy) and Elizabeth who light up my life daily with their presence and love. My parents are Peggy Besiallon (nee Boyer) and the late Pete Besiallon.

I will continue to work towards serving this community and the people to the best of my ability now and in the future, whether I am Chief or continue on as Education Director. I believe that through the empowerment of youth and the guidance of Elders, our community can work together for everyone to live Mino Biimaadziwin.

I hope you will support my bid to be your Chief for the next two years. Everyone's voice is important and I know you will vote in the upcoming election to ensure a brighter tomorrow for our Youth, Elders and Community.

Chi-Miigwech,

Debbie



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