

Aanii! The Executive Council has the duty and responsibility of service to and for the people of Gnoozhekaaning. I, Jacques LeBlanc Jr., am asking for your vote to serve as Vice Chairman for you and our community.



I am a lifelong community member and proud supporter of our deep and rich history. My wife Candice and I are the proud parents of 4 beautiful children. I am a 3rd generation fisherman, US Army Veteran, and a Varsity Basketball Coach. I currently work for BMIC as the Tribal Action Plan Director and moonlight as a Commercial Fisherman. For several years I have actively served on the Bay Mills Conservation Committee, Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills Advisory Council, the Healing to Wellness Court Advisory Committee, and Tribal Advisory Board. I have been drug and alcohol free for almost 20 years and am very proud of my sobriety. As a younger man I heard a quote that continues to inspire me, "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - Ghandi.

Tribal rights, treaties, compacts, and agreements are always being tested and scrutinized. As your Vice Chairman, I will always work to ensure that the benefit of our TRIBE as a whole is the forefront of any and all negotiations. The 2020 Consent Decree negotiations have been a brutal and painstaking process. The impacts of this important work could potentially change the face of Treaty Fishing as we know it. As a lifelong fisherman, I have a deep personal interest in protecting our rights, waters, and resources. I want to sit at those tables and negotiations and be the voice of our past, present, and future fisherman.

As your Vice Chairman, I would support and push for continued growth and expansion throughout our entities and infrastructure. As our community grows, so do our needs. We need to think outside the box and develop new resources to further assist with these needs as well as ways to improve and grow our current supports, services, and businesses.

I am a huge advocate for youth and would encourage Council to prioritize child and youth services across the board. I can't think of a better investment for all of our futures than by supporting, teaching, and guiding our future generations to be the best versions of themselves.

As Anishnaabe, we thrive when we connect with our identity. We were given medicines, ceremonies, and teachings on how to live a good life "MinoBimaadzawiiin". Cultural growth and support is vital to our people and has proven to be effective in mitigating Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness. On Council I would work to ensure that we build on our cultural competency and traditional values so we can all grow and flourish together.

Miigwetch for your consideration.

JACQUES LEBLANC JR. for Vice Chairman!