

Tansi, Sek:hon, Ahnee Boojo, Tanshi Kiwew (Kina Weya)

Hello, (Cree, Mohawk, Anishnabemowin, Michif-respectively) Everyone.

Niin Zhaganashi Noosom, Randy Freese, Ndishnakaz (Government Name)

Niin Zhaganashi Noosom, Mason Cretney Ndishnakaz (Name at Birth)

My English name according to the Government is Randy Freese.

My English name at birth was Mason Cretney.

Guelph, Doonjiba, (is where I live now) by way of many other places.

Edmonton, Doonji (Is where I came from originally).

Gy Gii Kenda Maasii Dodem, (I don't yet know my Clan Name.)

I am Non-Status Plains Cree & Red River Metis (historically), I have been a registered citizen of the Metis Nation of Ontario since 2004 and have been reconnecting to family and culture now for over 25 years. I met my birth mother and family in the summer of 2000. Most of whom are located in western Canada.

This is one brief way we introduce ourselves in our languages, Anishnabemowin being a language of the current territory in which I live and have been learning and reclaiming now for around 3 years.

I am including this personal statement as an introduction to City Council as my nomination package. I moved to Guelph in November of 2017, with my wife and young son, we have lived in the west end communities of Onward Willow, and West willow, since our arrival.

We as a family have tried to stay active and involved in local activities and I have also tried to get involved in local community activities and volunteered for organizations for several years. I currently sit on several boards and committees and dedicate a large amount of my free time to community and relationship building on behalf of not only my family, but my local neighbourhood as well the broader Urbanized Indigenous community of this city.

I live by and walk my teachings on a daily basis, and try to live by example for my Son, as well as future generations of community members. I do so with forward thinking ideals utilizing both 7 Generations & 7 Grandfathers teachings to the best of my abilities. Needless to say, it has been an ongoing challenge to balance walking in these two worlds.

Since early 2003, I have also owned and operated a small business in a variety of capacities. I have been involved as a Music, Entertainment & Administrative Professional with nearly 2 decades of solid experience. With college level Diplomas in Business Administration, Recording Arts Management, Freelance Writing for non-fiction media & a Creative writing

specialization, I have strived to establish my business into a legacy for our family by growing for stability and longevity. During my time as a small business owner, I have also become attuned to managing financial portfolios for myself and clientele as a Freelance Bookkeeper.

Through this work experience, I have earned the trust and respect of my employers and clients, gained knowledge well beyond my years and education, and have managed to get involved in the non-profit sector within the city as well.

Shortly after arriving in Guelph, I got involved with a small local charitable organization, I earned a spot on the board of directors, and some time later became the treasurer, where I completed a two-year term before being recruited to join the Board of Directors of The Guelph Community Health Center. Where I sit as a Board member as well as member of the finance committee & the Client Advisory Committee, (among other small roles as a volunteer).

I have a passion and dedication to create positive change within city structures and systems, not only to help these organizations do better and be better allies, but also for the Indigenous citizens of Guelph, those who feel “Othered,” and who may fall between the cracks.

Among other involvement, my son and I have been enrolled in a language nest through the public-school board, which has allowed me to build relationships within the school board and become a parent-on-council for the FNMI Education Council which in my short time has been very eye opening and insightful.

These opportunities have been my great honour to serve as we try to uphold Indigenous values within a colonized system, create positive change for our children and future generations of young learners as well work towards repairing relations and breaking down barriers, stereotypes and misinformation we usually face as Indigenous peoples in urbanized settings.