

Candidate Profiles

Candidates were asked to write up their own background and vision. Submissions were not edited for spelling or grammar and are presented as it was received.

This purpose of this document is to help Sandy Lake band members make informed choices on Election Day.

The list of candidates is in no particular order.

Vote on Monday, March 31, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time)

On-Reserve Band Members Vote at The Corporation Office
Out Of Town Band Members Vote By Telephone
Toll-Free 1-866-450-8399



There is confidence in God, the People will choose their Leaders for the next two years.



Dennis Kakegamic
Candidate for Councillor

My name is Dennis Kakegamic. I am a Councillor at Sandy Lake First Nation. I have accepted the nomination to run again for the 2014-2016 as a Councillor.

I will do the best of my abilities and be a good representative for my community. I will try to help wherever possible to each community member. I have also prayed to our Creator to look after and guide us through the good and rough times in our community.

Many Thanks,

Dennis Kakegamic.



John McKay
Candidate for Councillor

My name is John McKay. I am a Sandy Laker, I was raised in this community, in Old Sawmill. By my mother who was widowed when I was 12. I learned in early in life I have to work to survive. I grew up hearing my aunts and uncles tell us that my grandfather relocated to Sandy Lake from North Spirit Lake in the 1950s so his grandchildren can work and be part of Sandy Lake.

I started working when I was young with Sandy Lake Housing as a labourer. I was asked to work as a NNADAP Worker after that. I enjoyed working with people that had the same problems I had growing up but was willing to make positive changes in their lives. I saw the dramatic change in those lives and continue to see how it helps the community even today. I moved to the Health Director position and work there for 10 years. I understood the health and social challenges in our community. I worked with the government as Sandy Lake First Nation community liaison. Lack of community program funding for our people will always be there. Locating these funds and a government official who wants to help us is always the key. I eventually worked for the federal government as a Program Manager for Health Canada in the Sioux Lookout Zone. I learned how it is to work for the government and how funding works at that level. It was then I decided to come home and work for my community. I understand the federal agents might want to help our communities but they are governed by policies that are developed and administered from Ottawa. My vision for Sandy Lake First Nation is we continue to strive to be an independent community in the truest sense of the word. We need to development plans what we want our community and future to look like. If there is one already in process we need to get everyone involved in the process from the school children to the elders.

Any plans require a solid foundation. We need to figure out where we are and where we want to be and also what it is going to take to accomplish that. We need to review and conduct an inventory of our resources and assets. We need to get organized and as an organization. Review the lines of authorities and communication. Make sure everyone is on the same page as far as working towards the future is concerned. That will require a lot of work for everyone. If we are doing what we are supposed to do and our systems work. The service we provide to our people will improve and the work to prepare ourselves for the future will be viable. My commitment to you is that I will work for you and to utilize my years of work experience and actually continue to do what my family taught me growing up here in Sandy Lake. That is to work and serve my community Sandy Lake First Nation.



Wayne Kakepetum
Candidate for Councillor

Background

- 2 year term as Councillor
- Grade 12 Diploma
- Supervisory/Management Background (Justice, Residential School, Tikinagan, Right to Play)
- Education Board Member

Vision

- To keep working with youth programs, etc.
- To keep working on Community Activities



Jamie Rae
Candidate for Councillor

BACKGROUND: GRADUATED GRADE 12 HARD WORKER POSITIVE LEADER GOOD LISTENER ENJOYS SPORTS INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS COUNSELLING SKILLS WELL ROUNDED ORGANIZED COMPASSIONATE RESPECTS OTHERS LOVING FATHER HONEST GETS TO THE POINT PROBLEM SOLVER WILLING TO TAKE THE EXTRA STEP FULLY DEDICATED

VISION

MY VISION FOR BEING ON THE COUNCIL; IS TO MAKE SOME CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY, IN OUR CURRENT COUNCIL ALSO I BELIEVE THAT CHANGE WILL BE GOOD WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, I WANT THE VOICES OF PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT HEARD TO BE HEARD, BECAUSE MOST OF OUR PEOPLE IS PUSHED ASIDE AND THAT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN BECAUSE ITS THE PEOPLE THAT WE WILL BE WORKING FOR. I WOULD LIKE TO LOOK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR PEOPLE EITHER IN OUR HEALTH OR EDUCATIONAL WAYS, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP OTHERS RATHER THAN MYSELF.



Gerry Kakekagumick
Candidate for Councillor

I am married and have two children. I have been working for the Sandy Lake Community Development Inc. since 1998. I am a water/sewage driver and an assistant supervisor for the water/sewage truck drivers. Since 2008, I have been a health board member and now I'm a chairman. I decided to finish my high school and graduated in 2009.

Vision: To work for our community to the best of my ability.
I helped start the suboxone program and I'm going to keep supporting it.
To be considerate of the health hazards of our dusty roads.
To be considerate of housing in our community.
To consider a better working water treatment plant, too many times we have no water to deliver to our homes.

Our future belongs to our children and therefore, getting their education will bring them future jobs.



Back Ground

- *Band Councillor – 2 terms
- *Centennial Commemoration Co-ordinator
- *Board of Education – Board Member
- *Governance Project – Task Force Member
- *Treaty and Lands Management Officer

Vision

Sandy Lake First Nation to establish and structure a treaty First Nation government that will reflect our aspirations, customs and values.

Allan Rae
Candidate for Councillor



Background

All my life, I worked hard to support my family, my beautiful wife Suzan and I have been married for 25 years, we have 2 children and 3 grandchildren and 1 son-in-law.

I like to go hunting and get wood. I also volunteer my time when we have a crisis in the community.

I stand by our elders every day, they help support the people.

I pray to God every day because he is the reason we are here.

- Heavy Equipment Training
- Trapper Training Instructor (I can teach trappers)
- Big Game Guiding Course
- 2 years Councillor
- 2 years Head Councillor
- 17 years old started Line cutting
- Carpentry

I will continue to work hard for the people of Sandy Lake for the next two years if re-elected.

Fabian Crow
Candidate for Councillor



Job History – Cooperation – Housing – Tikinagan Interests – Hunting, fishing, sports – traditional foods are always passed on and shared with the community.

Vision – Mining Project

- more information on how the community will benefit
 - I would like to protect our traditional lands and resources
- Youth Outdoor Recreational Centre
- provide a gym for the youth.

Everyone to be treated equally eg. Housing and jobs

I would only be one person on the council and you can speak through my voice!

All band members including the elders, youth and the people that require special needs! Including a centre for them.

Garnet Crow
Candidate for Councillor



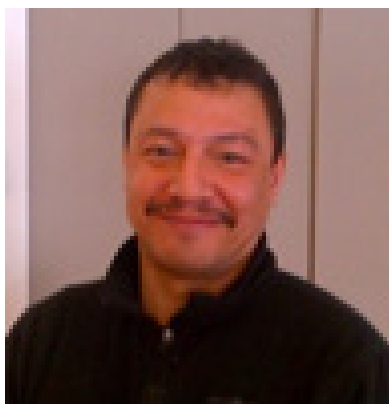
Harvey Kakegamic
Candidate for Councillor

Background

1979 – Councillor. Mostly on council. We’ve come a long way to get where we are today. There are a lot for us to do to prepare for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Vision

It’s always been my dream that our community comes together for a better future for our people. Presently, we have accomplished many things through working together. We always need to put God first in everything we do. We need to work together with Youth, Elders, and Chief and Council in order to accomplish those dreams for our future.



Russell Kakepetum
Candidate for Councillor

I know I can’t make any promises, but one thing I do know I will work 110% for my community.

You know me eh.



Sonny Manoakesic
Candidate for Councillor

ABOUT ME

My name is Sonny Manoakesic, My wife’s name is Melodie Manoakesic, We been married for 8 years now. We have a son, his name is Josiah Manoakesic. He was given to us under traditional customary arrangement by a family member. We are also fostering a child, his name is Dillan Kotwias that happens to be the biological brother of Josiah. We lived in Sandy Lake for quite some time and wish to remain here.

You might have seen me worked in many capacities here in Sandy Lake. I have enjoyed meeting different people here and working with those that I have come across. Along with the outside agencies, they both have been a blessing and positive. I will continue to work for you.

MY VISION

To continue to work and support, the suboxone program in Sandy Lake. That positive change in life style, for our community members.

To work towards establishing a Daycare for our Community.

To continue supporting our young people attending secondary and post-secondary schools outside our community.

To work towards the betterment of services of our Elders well- being and home life.

I will work with the Chief and Council, to put the benefits first for our people and children here in Sandy Lake.



Ida Anishinabie
Candidate for Councillor

Vision

To assist the community with more resources that will enhance the people lives whether they are young or old.



Apin Kakegamic
Candidate for Councillor

Background

- Grade 12 Diploma
- Ontario Certified Teacher
- The Degree of Bachelor of Arts
- The Degree of Bachelor of Education
- Specialists in:
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Phys. Ed Teacher
 - Television Producer
 - On Camera Host
 - Camera man
 - N.N.A.D.P

Vision

- Sandy Lake Band Budget back on track.
- Community roads need up-grading. Too much dust flying around during the summer.
- Winter roads. Some curves need to be straighten out.
- Get more programs for Education training for employment.
- Create jobs for Community development.
- Employment Salaries/hourly wages should be considered, qualifications and experiences in certain areas.
- Housing and Renovations.
- Lands and Resource issues.
- Youth issues.



Roland Linklater
Candidate for Councillor

Vision

My vision for the community where the young, the old and those in between feel free to explore themselves deeply knowing that we pass through this world only once, hence the need to make the best of our time to benefit both ourself and those around us. And a community where we can feel comfortable in, by getting rid of the dust.

Background

I've come from a family of nine with me being the youngest. I've always been a giving person when it comes to wild game. I like to share it with people who are very thankful.



Roy Kakegamic
Candidate for Councillor

University Educated
Six Years Previous Experience on
the Band Council
Education- Two Years
Finance and Administration-Four
Years

I am Proud to be from Sandy Lake
First Nation.
Sandy Lake is a good place to live.
It is a place where people care and
help each other.
It is a place where you can go
Muckshay,
almost any day.

My vision for seeking your support
on the Sandy Lake First Nation
Band Council is, I:

- want to see a Band-Owned Enterprise for generating revenue for Community Programming.
 - want to see a New Radio Station in Sandy Lake
 - want to empower youth and other Band members to take over the MWMF.
 - want to see a Community Centre for Sandy Lake
 - want to recruit band members who have gone out for an education to come back to Sandy Lake
 - Financial Transparency-I want to bring back the idea of reporting the Band Finances to the band membership, at least ,once a year.
- “Ask Not, What Sandy Lake can do for you. Ask, What you can do for Sandy Lake”



Anne Meekis
Candidate for Councillor

I’m currently working at the H/S as a Secretary for 4 years. I have 6 children & 14 grandchildren. I moved here in 1982 and got married in 1983 to Jim Meekis. I graduated in 2013. I got my grade 12. I started working since I was 16 years old in different areas. I know what to expect as I know what to do if problems arise.

I would like to thank the ppl/person who nominated me. I know that she/they have confidence in me to do the job.

My goals are to help the young people to pursue what they want in life. Help the community to better ourselves/work together as a community.

I will work hard & listen what is spoken of.



Joe Kakegamic
Candidate for Councillor

Hello, people.

Been here 8 years and carried the Health Portfolio. It’s a huge responsibility and I’ve tried my best to help the people in their struggle. I will continue to work hard for the people.



Jackie Rae
Candidate for Councillor

Background

Lifelong resident of the community and region
10 years Special Constable
19 years Tikinagan Child and Family Services Worker
4 years Supervisor Sandy Lake Plant
Demonstrated lifelong commitment to the Community and region
Strong advocate for First Nations People and issues

“By working together we can do more.”

My vision is to build a stronger united community by building a trusting relationship with all members. I will always be accessible, listen to your concerns, and work with you to find solutions. I can build a stronger community through the learning centre, youth programs and workshops (Drug Harm Reduction), supporting ideas, and advocating for the elders. Together, you and I can do it.



Rusty Fiddler
Candidate for Councillor

Background

I am a family man. I have been married to Linda Fiddler for 33 years. She has been very supportive. I speak and understand Cree/English. I have been serving as a Councillor for 10 years and as Chief for 4 years. I am still committed to working for you.

Education Experience: Grade 12 & 4 months College

Work Experience: NAPS Board 8 years SLAAMB Board 4 years
Assistant Project Manager 7 years
Northwest Co - 12 years

Vision

Sandy Lake is my community. I would like to improve Education Training and Employment and Communicating and Consulting to the people of Sandy Lake of other services to their benefit.



David Kakegamic
Candidate for Councillor

Since I started working at age of six- teen, I have done a lot of things for Sandy Lake like: Nursing Station (RC side), fuel haul from airport to nursing station, carpentry, log cabins, ski-doo (school transportation) bus driver, Peace Officer under oath sworn in by Ontario Provincial Judge, the promoted to Security Supervisor. I also sat on the Housing Committee helping allocate housing to people. Then I became a medical driver for the nursing station for the people on a 24 hour basis.

I got married and had nine wonderful kids and I raised kids on my own time, my three wonderful kids and four grandchildren of my own and my wife and her kids.

As present, I'm working and ministering the Full Gospel Church, doing my dad's work.

I am really looking at the future, the kids, the younger generation to remember what we were taught, like how to raise our kids to do traditional things and to teach their kids to how to survive, such as hunting and trapping. I am planning to help the younger people to have a home, as I did when I was on the housing committee. We need to start teaching how to survive in traditional way as Sandy Lake needs to be Sandy Lake again, once again.



Ida Mae Fiddler
Candidate for Deputy Chief

Background

I am a proud Sandy Lake Band Member, I am the daughter of Joe and Linda Fiddler of the Sucker Clan.

Vision

The future holds, higher learning and education, youth opportunities, richness of culture and language, advocacy for women, children, youth, elders, economic development, human resources, wellness of the people. I would like to see roots planted for members of Sandy Lake to have a safe and happy home within the community.



Robert Kakegamic
Candidate for Deputy Chief

My name is Robert Kakegamic and I am running for re-election of Deputy Chief of Sandy Lake First Nation. I enjoyed my first term as Deputy Chief and would like to continue to work for my people for another term. I am passionate about ensuring the elders in our community are taken care of, respected and valued. I will be committed to helping our elders with any concerns they may have.

There are many things I want to see in Sandy Lake. One of these is to have an all-weather road into our community. I believe the pros outweigh the cons. One of the benefits of an all-weather road will be a reduction to the cost of living. We will have better access to fresh foods and other necessities needed for our children and homes.

I believe in living a good healthy life. When I am not working, I am out being active. I enjoy going out into the wilderness. I encourage everyone to stay active. I also support and participate in special events and activities happening in our community.



Nick Day
Candidate for Deputy Chief

Experience

Elected as councillor at the age of 20 year old and held that position for 14 years. Health director for 4 years/health board elected for 3 terms/present education board 2 terms. Presently work at the Sandy Lake Development Corporation as Public Works Manager for the last 13 years

I am a team player. I look at the facts before making decision.

I am comfortable communicating with outside officials.

I am fluent in Oji-cree and English

I am friendly and listen to your needs but I am not afraid to be aggressive and fight for the people of Sandy Lake.

I have lived in Sandy Lake successfully, I understand both worlds. I choose to live in Sandy Lake and thank God for giving me the tools to help and work for the people of Sandy Lake.

Vision

Work with the people of Sandy Lake as a team player.

I will keep people of Sandy Lake informed by communication-through radio, newsletters, internet and visit your organizations personally to talk about your program, how we can better deliver services to our community.

I will ensure that the young people are involved/ work with the elders in the development of a better Sandy Lake to live in. Our elders are our strength.

Working with the elected chief and council and program staff in partnership

My goal will be to address the immediate concerns of the members of Sandy Lake First Nation in maximizing economic development opportunities while maintaining the cultural integrity of our people with long term aim of sovereignty and self-determination.



Troy Kakepetum
Candidate for Chief

Background Experience:

I have worked in the education field for 31 years.

- completed elementary & High school and 4 years in post-secondary studies in Education
- 23 years as a teacher
- 1 year as Principal in the elementary school
- 2 years as a Vice-principal at the High School
- 5 years as the Assistant Education Director
- currently, I am an Education Director

Vision: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

As your Chief, I am willing to work closely with my Council in mobilizing, educating and directing each of them in upholding their responsibilities that will benefit all community members. I strongly believe in team work and great things will happen when people unite and agree on a common cause. Furthermore, we will explore, research, analyze and establish matters that pertain to my visionary message of "Working Together for a Better Tomorrow" which will benefit all a Band Membership of Sandy Lake First Nation.



Bart Meekis
Candidate for Chief

Background:

I am seeking your vote for re-election of Chief for a second term. Previous to being elected Chief in 2012, I was your elected Deputy Chief for two terms from 2008-2012 and Councillor from 2002-2008.

Vision:

I follow the vision of our past leaders. I will continue our leadership tradition that was put here by the people and our Lord and Creator. We have an inherent right from our Creator to be who we are as First Nations people.

Our future is connected to Treaty No. 5 which Chief Robert Fiddler signed in 1910. We need to know we are a Treaty No. 5 First Nation. We need to keep fighting for our treaty rights. Just as the Queen's representative put the Union Jack flag on our Chief to symbolize the promises made in Treaty No. 5, we need to continue to protect our Treaty rights that were promised in 1910. These Treaty promises that Her Majesty made will supply and support education, housing, health, justice and family issues. I will continue to fight for these treaty rights just as our past leaders did.