

AFOA CANADA BOARD NOMINATIONS

SLATE OF NOMINEES TO STAND FOR ELECTION AT AFOA CANADA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- FEBRUARY 17, 2016, MONTREAL, QC.

The AFOA Canada Board of Directors approved a slate of nominees to stand for election at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members to fill two vacant positions. All members in good standing are eligible to vote.

Please renew your membership or join to ensure your vote counts.



Daniel Brant, CAFM (Ontario)

Dan is a member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte where he grew up and went to school on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in southern Ontario. His undergraduate work was in the field of Architecture at Ryerson University, he holds two Master's degrees, one in Engineering from the University of Waterloo and the other in Public Administration from Queens University and is currently working on his PhD from Nipissing University in North Bay. He has held senior positions with the AFN as CEO and with NACCA as CEO. His work experience also includes being on staff with four federal Ministers of Indian Affairs. He was the founder of First Nations Management, a consulting company where he worked for near twenty years. Among those years, he was an associate with Coopers & Lybrand. He has served on a number of Boards including both federal and provincial Order In Council appointments, Gignul Housing in Ottawa and First Nations Technical Institute at Tyendinaga. He is currently the CAO at his home at Tyendinaga, the 9th largest First Nation in Canada.



Charlene Bruno, B.Com, ICD.D (Alberta)

Charlene is a member of the Samson Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta where she worked for 8 years in human resources with Samson Management Ltd. Her experience in corporate management and policy development lead into a number of initiatives while serving as Corporate Liaison for Peace Hills Insurance. In 2008 she attained her Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta and was contracted for three years by Samson Cree Nation. From 2010 to present, Charlene has been contracted as the Executive Director for six independent Alberta First Nations where her primary responsibility is the implementation of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) funding agreement in addition to development of operational and marketing plans, budget compliance and reporting to the Board and stakeholders. She has acquired a strong financial background and diverse business competencies in communications, human resources, accounting, facilitation and strategic planning. She currently serves on the AFOA Alberta Chapter Board of Directors and formerly served on the Nipisihkopahk Education Authority, Samson Education Trust Fund and Kasohkowew Child Wellness Society.

Theresa Grasby, CAFM (Manitoba moving to Ontario)



Theresa Grasby is an Ojibway member of Sagkeeng First Nation; one of the 7 (seven) communities in Treaty 1 Territory. Her background in finance spans more than 25 (twenty-five) years and like many others in First Nation communities, came by the finance profession by necessity as there were not many qualified financial individuals in small communities or Aboriginal non-profit organization 25 years ago.

Theresa is a CAFM and an active member of AFOA for approximately 11 (eleven) years. She has served on the AFOA Manitoba Chapter Board for 5 (five) years and on the AFOA Canada Board for 4 (four) years and is the current Secretary Treasurer. She brings to the AFOA Canada Board the experience she has gained from serving on the Board of Directors of other Aboriginal organizations like Ikwe Widdjiitiwin Inc. (woman's shelter), AOFA Manitoba Inc, West Springfield Businessman's Association (only woman on an all-male board), Indigenous Learning Centre and a founding member of the Starr Foundation.

Theresa is a Board Director with extensive professional experience and significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, non-profit and philanthropy. She possesses strong diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals. She applies qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for progress to strategic governance efforts.

Theresa Grasby is a strong supporter of AFOA Canada and its mission to provide leadership in Aboriginal financial management. Aboriginal communities and organizations are assuming more and more responsibility for their own finances and as they pursue new opportunities, they need the knowledge and professionalism that AFOA Canada provides. AFOA Canada provides the mechanism and the "community" where organizations, First Nations, and individuals can meet, exchange ideas and grow.

Troy Jermone (Québec)



Troy Jerome is a citizen of the Mi'gmaq Nation, residing in Listuguj, Quebec. Troy began his employment with the Mi'gmaq Nation with the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government in 1989. He served as Director of Operations from 1995 to 2004 and is now the Executive Director and Nutewistog (Speaker for the Mi'gmaq of the territory of Gespe'gewa'gi) of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat.

Elected to the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Council from 1999 to 2004, Mr. Jerome served to assist the Nation in its efforts to raise awareness of the Mi'gmaq rights to natural resources, the acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and the Mi'gmaq right to self-determination. During his tenure on Council, Troy also served as a founding member of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi from the inception in 2000 to June 2004.

On governance issues, Troy quotes some findings from the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. "When tribes make their own decisions about what approaches to take and what resources to develop, they consistently out-perform non-tribal decision-makers' . . . *'the lesson is that those tribes that build governing institutions capable of the effective exercise of sovereignty are the ones that are most likely to achieve long-term, self-determined economic prosperity. They are the ones who will most effectively*

shape their own futures, instead of having those futures shaped by others. For tribes, Nation-building is the only game in town."

As leaders of the seventh generation of First Nation people, Troy believes there needs to be a focus on the implementation of our inherent and treaty rights. He adds there is a need to have skilled, proficient administrators that share a vision of determined people building economies and capable governing institutions, minimizing economic leakages and restoring rights to the lands and the natural resources that abound in our territories. "It is evident that we need to find our own solutions to the issues at hand. We cannot expect any great success to come through the Indian Act or the Department of Indian Affairs. A Nation Building approach to increase our capacity to make our own decision is needed; there are clear steps to follow, and we will do so with the involvement of our people and our communities."

Elva McCorrister (Manitoba)

My name is Elva McCorrister (Mountain Woman) born and raised on the Peguis First Nation. I have three children and many Grandchildren and Great Grand Children that I aspire to mentor in a good way. I follow the Traditional Teachings and belong to the Three Fires Society of learning. It is through life experience, numerous positions in handling millions of dollar budgets and having knowledge of First Nation communities that I could bring to the organization. I am semi-retired and work part-time for Peguis in developing a business plan for their new Personal Care Home. I am also a Financial Trustee for the Peguis Surrender Trust which handle a 130 million dollar budget.



I attended Peguis Central School, did my Business Administration at Red River Community College, Bachelor of General Studies at University of Calgary and Hospital Administration at University of Saskatchewan and University of Carleton on a part time basis.

I worked at both the Fisher River and the Percy Moore Hospitals for thirteen years which brought a lot of experience and knowledge of work ethics and respect for those I worked with throughout the years. After attending Red River College in 1983 I was hired by Peguis Band to plan, develop, and negotiate a proposal for a personal care home. I was instrumental in completing both the Personal Care Home and the Elderly Person Housing where I was Executive Director for ten years.

This brought me to venture out to other opportunities working with the Tribal Council in economic development ventures such as the heavy equipment training with Hugh Munro Construction and then with the Southern Chiefs as the Executive Director. I was then moved into the role of Executive Director of the Health Program at the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council Inc. (IRTC) which I established five years ago for the Chiefs of IRTC. I look forward to meeting you at the AFOA conference. Megwetch!

Travis Seymour, CAFM (British Columbia)



Travis Seymour, MBA, CPA, CGA, CAFM, is a Manager in MNP's Aboriginal Services practice and a Mohawk from the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne. Working out of the Vancouver office, Travis works exclusively with First Nation clients.

Travis is experienced in capacity building and capacity development. He works with clients to develop systems that meet industry standards. He has also led a variety of projects such as economic leakage studies, financial management system reviews, enterprise risk management reviews, comprehensive community planning, and organizational reviews. Prior to joining MNP, Travis worked for his own community government 'Mohawk Council of Akwesasne' as Director of Central Resource Services.

In 2009, Travis was designated a Certified General Accountant (CGA). He is also a Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM). Travis holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) specializing in marketing and finance, from Indiana University and a Bachelor in Science degree in Industrial Management from Clarkson University. Currently, Travis lives in the Vancouver area with his wife and four children. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, camping and hiking.

Judy White (Newfoundland/Labrador)



Judy White is a Mi'kmaq and member of the Flat Bay Band. She currently resides in Conne River where she works as the Self-Government Advisor for Miawpukek First Nation. Ms. White completed a Bachelor of Laws degree from Dalhousie Law School with particular emphasis upon Aboriginal Law. Ms. White also completed the Intensive Program of Lands, Resources and First Nations Government at Osgoode Hall Law School where. Ms White has completed the Chartered Directors Program at McMaster University. Ms. White is currently a partner with the Law firm of McDonald White located at Conne River, Newfoundland, which specialises in aboriginal law. She serves as the Self-Government Advisor for Miawpukek First Nation. She has served as a Policy and Planning Specialist for Women's Policy Office on Aboriginal Women's Issues. Ms. White is an experienced board member as she has served as the inaugural Chairperson of the National Centre for First Nations Governance. She has been the vice chairperson of the First Nations Statistical Institute, first ever Aboriginal Crown Corporation. Ms. White as served as board of director for Aboriginal Peoples Television Network and Board of Regents for Memorial University. Ms. White currently sits as board of director for First Nations Financial Management Board.