

M'Chigeeng Candidates Night Transcript

Pat Medahbee: We're gonna pick the councilor candidates first to go up and speak, and again, it's randomly out of the box. You've been given 5 minutes to, uh...

Do your presentation, we'll time it, and then we'll pick another name randomly out of the box.

So our first speaker is going to be.

Valisa Edwards. Valisa Edwards, are you here? Valisa Peltier Edwards.

Lisa.

Okay, Lisa's not here. As I indicated, maybe not all the candidates are here. But you still have an opportunity to vote for them if they're on the candidates.

Ballot.

Okay.

Try again.

Summer Bowden.

Summer Borden, are you here?

Good morning.

Timing has started now. Okay.

Summer Beaudin: Ani Kinawea.

It's an honor to be here.

to speak and to be the youngest in the council to be nominated. And I guess the first to speak. So miigwech.

Summer Bowden Dishnakas, Chigein Donjaba, Mine Gun Dodem.

Ojibwe knows when is magazine.

Mina, what? Magazek, what?

Umm.

So, hello everyone, good afternoon. My name is Summer Bowden. I'm a member of Chiging First Nation. I am from the Wolf Clan. My Ojibwe name is Voice of the Eagle Woman.

I grew up here in Chiging and attended Lakeview School, so this community has always been.

Home to me.

It has shaped who I am today and it's where my roots and my family and my values come from.

I also took the step to build my own small business. Through that experience, I've learned responsibility.

problem solving and importance of supporting local. I understand firsthand the challenges and rewards of creating communities.

within opportunities within our community. And that perspective is something I carry with me.

I'm putting my name forward to serve the community on chief and council.

I'm running because I care deeply about the people, our culture.

and our future.

I believe in community that feels supported, heard, and united.

where decisions are made with transparency, respect, and accountability.

Our community is built on strength, resilience, and tradition, but we are also...

But we also know that there's a lot of work to be done. Many of our members.

Want clearer communication and more opportunities.

And stronger connection with leadership. So that's what I hope to bring.

When I...

If I get elected onto council.

One of my priorities will be communication.

Our members deserve to know what's happening, not after decisions are made. I want to create open and consistent ways for members to stay informed and share their voices.

Whether they live here or away.

I also want to support local growth, supporting artists, entrepreneurs.

And others that are struggling to.

Umm.

find their way with education.

Umm.

When we invest in our people, we strengthen our entire community.

Another important focus for me is youth and future generations. Our young people need to be seen, supported, and inspired.

That means creating safe spaces, mentorship opportunities, and programs that connect them to culture, skills, and leadership.

At the same time.

We must continue to honour and listen to our elders.

As they're very knowledgeable.

Their knowledge and guidance are essential. They are the foundation of who we are, and their voices should always be included in shaping our path forward.

I also believe in practical, realistic progress.

Big promises don't mean much without action. Um, I'm committed to showing up, doing the work, and being someone you can count on. Someone who you...

Someone who will listen, follow through, and represent you with integrity.

This is not about one person. It's about all of us as a whole, working together to build a stronger, healthier, more connected community.

I'm not here to say that I have all the answers, but I am here to listen, to learn.

And to lead with honesty and respect. Um, miigwech for your time, your trust.

And your consideration.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you, Summer.

It took four minutes.

Welcome.

Our next candidate for counselor is Matt Corbier.

Matt, are you here? There you go.

Okay, go ahead. Your time starts now.

Matt Corbier: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Matt Corbier, also .

That's my spirit name.

So, today, um, well, first off, I want to acknowledge your confidence in nominating me, um, and I wanted to honor that by coming here and presenting something honest and true.

And to let you know that I'm, that's why I'm here. I'm here to listen. I'm here to listen to the suggestions of the people to make meaningful change and to make a meaningful trajectory of our community so we can all kind of develop and become well in a good way.

Um, I'm from here, I'm from Chiging, you know, I used to work here at the complex, used to work at the arena, and professionally, I worked out west for a decade before I came home.

And, um, now I spend most of my time... for the past 4 years, I've been picking up our waves. I've been a pipe carrier for about a year and a half now, still considering myself a beginner and an amateur at that.

But I take it very seriously, just like I take my nomination seriously. I don't even see it as a job. I don't see it as a way to get accolades or get myself more forward.

this is a way that... this is a thing that has to be done, and it's been my path so far becoming well. Um, I struggled with a little bit of alcohol addiction before, and...

It was through these ways, our ways, our teachings that brought me back and brought me that kind of peace. I want to be an advocate, the kind of.

guide people in a gentle way towards that way, because I know when I first started as a teenager, I was kind of intimidated, and then there was... it was not such a good thing, but our ways are very gentle and kind, and they're here to love you.

That's 1 of my main basic things also.

Um, my... for my community vision, I really regard the land and our own community wellness and health. I spend a lot of time in the bush. I walk, I run, I eat there, I sleep there, and there's a lot of concerning things that I see kind of falling between the cracks.

at times there are... I don't want to make accusations or anything, but sometimes there are, let's say, garbage fires that people wait till it's dark, and then you could smell it. It comes right to my house, into my room, and...

that same land where I live is where my grandparents are, and it just hurts to have that pollution come to where your sacred space is. My goal would be to advocate to take care of our environment a lot. I spend a lot of time on the water, too.

And I eat a lot of fish, catch a lot of fish, and I share a lot of fish.

Um, there are real concerns about our fish supply with regards to contamination. I'd like to investigate that and advise people.

Um, the regulations say that you can only eat an X amount of fish, like 1 or 2 rainbow trout, and I eat rainbow trout probably 4 or 5 times a week. Um, so we're okay for that, for now, for my personal guinea pig.

But we do need some solid data on that kind of thing.

Um, I also believe in the accountability. Um, I want to reiterate that this job of a counselor, it's simple. All you have to do is listen.

Consider what's being said and act appropriately in the best way that you possibly can.

Um, I'm here to listen to elders, I'm here to listen to kids. That's one of the main things. It's... it's heartbreaking, like what Geraldine was saying earlier. Um, a lot of my family are aging, and they do walking a lot, and it's not safe on the roads.

Also.

It's the community. It's the vehicle traffic and there's a lot of outsiders and.

I think one of the main things that can.

kind of remedy that is unity. We have to talk with each other. We have to meet with each other. Now, I'm...

I kind of struggle with that because I like staying home, but you know, here I am, and I'm not afraid, you know.

Not afraid to stand up, not afraid to say anything. This is a duty, like I said. I spent a lot of my time making myself well through our ways, through strong man.

through my tickets and training. And it's that kind of dedication, that kind of discipline that I'm gonna bring to this job, and I'm not gonna joke around, I'm gonna get her done and do the work. Nahal, miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

Our next counselor candidate is Morgan Hare.

Okay, your time starts now.

Morgan Hare: I'm just going to stay quiet for five minutes.

If anyone doesn't know where to put their X on the ballot box, just let me know.

Because I know where to put the X.

Well, Jimmy Gwetsch, everybody for.

for coming out this afternoon.

It's nice to see a large crowd and everybody that's online here.

And as our elder, it's always great to have our elders at every meeting.

That's something I tried to instill in being Gima for the past two and a half years, is to make sure our elders are always invited to meetings to do their opening prayers.

And to help us out through tough times with chicken.

Um...

Chiking is not a...

Not a small place anymore. It's grown.

I've been in St. John's, other urban cities for 40 years.

And I know when I come home every year during that time.

Chicken has grown a lot.

Population has grown.

The community needs have grown tremendously.

And every time I drive around when I first came home.

2 and a half years ago, I said, you know, there's a fair bit of work to do. But the but the one thing that I have to remember when I when I came here to.

To, um...

to do my campaign for Chief, for Guillemot, is to listen.

I think listen is probably the biggest thing in my job.

to what's going on in the community. What is the pulse of the community?

Chief and Council are going to get it. We're going to get the pulse.

Gima in particular has to move around.

to various locations in Chiang.

Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Toronto, every place I travel to, I'm there to represent Chiging.

our needs in our community, and also to work with the with the other groups around Chagang.

Many do menacing.

the partnerships we've developed with.

With the First Nations here is very strong. From what I've seen in two and a half years, we've been working together.

Uh, the 21 First Nations, um...

on the Robinson-Huron Treaty negotiations. It's been a hell of a ride. It's been my biggest file with the Council and myself.

We took over a big file and we had meetings with tons of lawyers.

invest... investment companies, you name it. Uh, we had community consultations during that time that... that took a lot of... a lot of our time at the table, and sometimes we went till midnight.

We didn't complain. That's our job. We have to work.

At nights, and sometimes you don't stop until the business is done.

And it's not easy and you just have to keep working.

We happen to be a generation right now, in the past two and a half years, where we're a benefactor of the Robinson Huron Treaty.

From 1852, we're the generation that's alive and we got the.

Uh, we got the funds, uh, distributed for that this year, so we're very lucky to be living in this generation to get those funds.

The next one is the Manitoulin Island Project, and I think we've talked about that a lot, and I've been asked by community members all the time, what's happening with that?

And we are coming close to.

One minute. I'm hoping this coming year, I'm hoping that we can finalize that.

I've been meeting with the Gemasi in the past couple of weeks, and I think that's going to get close.

The interest from the Robinson Huron treaty, you got to work on that too. And that's gonna be out very shortly as well.

I just want to say that.

As counselor.

I'm not going as gimaa this year, so as counselor in the next three years, if I get in, I'd really like to work on the big stuff with my fellow counselors, and that's trying to get a new Lakeview school.

We've got the drawings, we need the funding, it's going to be expensive. We need an arena, a brand new arena that needs... 10 seconds. ...that needs support. And, um, so anyways, there's so much work to do, um, in this position as councillor, and I'm hoping to...

Help affect change in the — **Pat Medahbee:** Time is up.

Morgan Hare: My time is up.

Pat Medahbee: The next counselor candidate is Ray Corbier.

Howdy.

Okay, your time has started.

Ray Corbier: Okay, from Pat's open remark, I think he's getting ready to run for chief again, A-OK, from what I heard here.

Honey, Ray Corbier, Changing's my home. I've been here for most of my 67 years.

And.

We have some serious issues we have to deal with here.

We've been trying.

But they're, you know.

There's more, there's more all the time. You see, we seem to get one thing done, and then there's other issues come up. You know, housing's a big issue. Housing, housing.

Housing.

And then drug addiction. Drug addictions are bad.

Not only here, but in every community.

I was recently in London, Ontario, and I was surprised by the openness of the drug issue.

Big time.

So it's not only here that we see these issues.

I'm glad that there are a number of candidates in this election, 28. Two terms ago, we had 11 running, so I'm glad that there's a whole whack of people who are interested in our community. It's important that we be involved in our community.

And, you know, that's why I kind of.

I wasn't going to leave my name at first, but then I thought.

You know, there's some issues I want to finish up on.

Hopefully in this next term, we'll get that done.

If it doesn't, maybe it'll be done by who's ever here, so that's my...

My feeling.

I'm, um, an advocate for, uh...

You know, for our kids.

I'll just say that.

We have to keep some of our monies that we were given.

in our RHT settlements, which to me wasn't quite fair.

You know, to get into bigger bands.

Kind of took a.

took a beating, I guess, per se, per quota.

And the smaller bands did way much better. And I don't think that we didn't have nothing to do with that, but that was done before our time.

So anyways, I disagreed with that RHT, but it's what was there when we started this term.

Um, the Manitoulin Project, we're roughly...

270 million or something or that's coming our way maybe.

And maybe not. I think we may have to go to court on this issue.

I think it should be shared.

per capita.

For all the First Nations.

And Chiging is the biggest one in UCCMM. And I think we deserve to.

The majority of it, not all of it, but.

Anyways, that's my feeling on that.

Our elders, we have lots of elders here. I'm an elder.

I feel old now, I did the art work all morning, I can hardly move.

And I biked downhill, and I got my best parking spot right in front here, but it's so...

Which was nice. And Matt, I'll tell you, if you walk at 7:30 in the morning, there's no traffic. Because I walked this morning at 7:30 with my dogs.

And it was so peaceful, it was so nice.

I wish that could happen all day, but it doesn't.

Umm.

What else I'm going to bring up is...

You know, I drive school bus part-time when somebody's sick, and so one of our drivers now is sick. Phil Burnford's been here forever. Anyways, I'm filling in for him, and I see the young kids get on the bus.

And they're so energetic, they're so happy.

And I said, I'm trying to be here for them. We have to leave something for them. We can't take whatever we have now and spend it all. We have to remember there are people coming up here, lots of them.

At the daycare, our ban list has grown by 300 people in the last year.

In the last two years, we have 300 new members coming in.

We have to take care of those. A lot of them are young, young people.

I mean, I think we were graciously given.

You know, our sum of money for being a chicken band member.

It's up to us to take care of that, but it's up to us also to remember.

As they say, the seven generations, we just can't think of one.

Other than that, I'm glad that I came down. I was hoping to get up early because I have people.

I wanna go see and do some, enjoy this afternoon. So I'm not gonna be here all afternoon. I got other things on my plate today.

But I wish everybody well of the 28 candidates.

Whoever it's going to be, I can work with either one. It wasn't easy last term, but.

We have a job to do, so.

Okay, miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Five minutes, exactly.

Our next counselor candidate is Andrew Bisson.

Andrew Bisson: Aaniiih everyone. I want to thank Geraldine for starting our meeting off in a good way.

For those, I think a lot of people here know me, but if not, I'm the son of the late Ed Bisson. He passed a couple years ago. My mom also passed about a year ago. I was really close to my uncle Brian, who passed now six years ago.

And I used to live here. I've been in Ottawa for about 24 years now. And, you know, I came here a lot more often when those three people were alive and living here. And so I'm just going to be honest, it's been a bit of a it's been a bit of a struggle.

Um...

challenging couple years, and... and I'm just getting back to, kind of... Chagain did so much for me, and... and it was just... it's been really tough to adjust to not coming home to having them here, uh, in Chagain, and so...

Anyways, um...

I was elected last time and it was quite an honour and I did keep my name forward this time. I feel like there's unfinished business from our council this last term. There was a lot going on and I don't want to get into that, but I mean, we're happy to answer questions.

I think there's a lot more we can do. And I think I learned a lot from this first term. And, you know, you learn when to listen and you learn to know when to speak up more. And I think I'm one of those people that will speak up for, I think, the right thing. I think I bring integrity to.

Uh, the council position, and I think there's just so much more that we need to do, and...

Um...

You know, I think we didn't have enough community forums, and I talked about that when I was elected last time, and just with everything that was going on, and again, some people... Chief, WG, there was just a lot going on. I think that's not an excuse. I think I'm here, I'm not shirking responsibility. We should have done better. We should be communicating more with you folks.

Including the officer people as well. Again, that's the majority of the band members and they want to know what's going on in the community as well. And I think we have to do a lot more communicating. One of the things I like to focus on as well is the band office. I think, you know, I think we could really use, you know, I may have been living in Ottawa, but I heard from a lot of band members, it's pretty easy to reach out to us via Facebook, of course.

that the services need to be better in the band office, but I also don't think counselors should be going in and meeting directly with people. I think there's a right way to do it, and I'd like to see an external review of kind of how services are operating in the band office. I think our band members deserve that, but I also don't think.

We need council members to be attacking band employees as well because most of our staff are band employees as well. So I just think we just need to bring a little bit more respect to this council session. I think the seven grandfather teachings should really be at the foundation of everything we do.

So I really think we need to do a better job of that.

was a decision that was made, but I'm really hoping that the Manitoulin Project monies, when they are released, that we really look after. We talk a lot about the seven generations, but I feel like.

with management product, we really have to really instill that. And.

put services in in the community for people. And I really believe we talk a lot about our youth. We talk about the addictions and everything. If we, I think one of the things I'd like to focus on when we get those monies is to build a large modern recreational center in Chagain, a new gym, a new ice surface, a new kind of art studio, all those things for for our youth to do. And it's not just our youth, you know. It's other people that would take advantage of it as well. But.

I think that could be something that's built for future generations. It's not just us, it's for other generations come. I think that would really help with a lot of things. And I think we really have to focus more on mental health supports within the community to try to get ahead of some of the addiction issues as well.

Another thing I'd like to see, I think we should improve our HR process as well. I'd like to see more of our band employees working for the band as well and that our postings are getting out to the right people. And so I think we can do a better job of that as well.

Just quickly go on my notes here.

Just, yeah, I'll maybe leave it this, that this last term, I was the youngest councillor, and I was 45 at the time, and I don't think that's good enough. I think we need youth, and I'm glad to see a lot of youth are running this time. I shouldn't be the youngest person here, I think we need... I should be one of the older ones, like, it should be... I'm really happy to see some youth put their name.

Thank you all for being here.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

Gail Payette.

No, no.

Beautiful.

Okay, your time starts now.

Gail Payette: Honey, kenuiya, kitchenenda mwabinn.

Chumigwetch Beziak Mompinungwa.

Gishko makwa kwaindigo, makwa dodem.

Chiging Donjaba. Hello, everyone.

I'm happy to see you all, thank you all for coming out here today. My spirit name is Sky Bear Woman, and I am from the Bear Clan. I'm a proud resident and member of Chiging First Nation.

Helen Crawford Baugh, Nita Boski, Jincosa and Gosha, Mike Jincosa and Busgem, Mitchell Jincosa and Gwis, meanwhile, Shona Jincosa, this is a new.

My mother's name is Helen Crawford. My spouse is Mike, and Mitchell is our son, and our daughter-in-law is Shona, and they're here supporting me today.

We're all here for the same reason. To listen, to learn, to question, and understand why so many people.

So many amazing people are vying to be elected to Chiging Chief and Council.

Looking at the list of candidates that will be on the ballots, I can say with utmost respect and confidence.

That all their voters are going to have some difficult decisions to make.

Because each person before you on those ballots have integrity and drive to do what is best for Cheeking. So I appreciate everybody that's been nominated.

So why should you consider me for counsel?

I love chiging.

When we moved here in 1989 with my mother, I wasn't the same person you see today.

I didn't know who I was, or understand where I actually came from, because my mother wasn't allowed to share her language or culture with me.

However, she showed me how to live with resiliency and pride.

Being here awoke my inner fire. I learned from students, from colleagues, from family, from knowledge keepers, from elders.

And friends, that I am somebody. Just like each and every one of you. You are somebody. You all are important.

I've had so many great mentors here that have pushed me down the right path, that have encouraged me, and have supported me in so many ways. I will always be grateful to each and every one of them.

I've learned to speak honestly, to listen, to understand, and to appreciate what everybody has to offer.

I will continue to be a lifelong learner of Anishinaabemowin, culture, and traditions, as I continue to learn who I am while healing through my own grief and intergenerational trauma.

Chiging does have a bright future.

The potluck social that was hosted this past week reassured me of that. It was amazing to see so many people.

Bring food and socialize without an agenda.

We all came together, there was laughter, there were greetings, there was tradition, there was culture, there was collaboration, and of course, there was great food.

It's always great food.

I picture a future for Chiging of improved communication.

Where all members are informed and provided meaningful opportunities to share their input and knowledge.

I picture a future of accountability, ensuring proper processes and procedures are followed, and actually determining what does accountability look like.

What does it sound like?

And not just anywhere, at all levels, at chief and council, at administration, department managers, managers, supervisors, frontline workers, and community members. We talk about.

community members not feeling safe. Well, how can we make them feel safe? How can we take the fear out of our community? How can we be proud again? Well, it starts...

Pat Medahbee: One minute.

Gail Payette: ...today.

Truly.

I have... I picture a future where all members have equal access to services regardless of who they are or where they live. Our future together can be great. We need to set aside biases, determine high priority areas such as health and well-being, safety and sustainability, while learning about harsh realities.

and seeking actual remedies rather than Band-Aid solutions. We can do this together.

I believe that my experiences have provided me with a solid knowledge base. I'm trying to speed read, sorry.

To be a committed counsellor for all of you. My experience includes being on previous chief and counselling committees, serving on the Anagdawabdik Civilian Oversight Committee for the UCM Police Services, and being more board members in other sporting organizations.

My most beneficial experience —

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Gail Payette: Okay.

Chi-miigwech to my nominators, to those that continue to share their support for me, and finally, I wish all the candidates the best of luck!

Sorry.

Pat Medahbee: That's all right.

Our next counselor candidate is Brad Mack.

Your time starts now.

Brad Mack: Okay, thank you. I'm an old guy, so I have notes and I've got my glasses on.

Ani, hello everyone. I am Brad Mack. I'm truly honoured to be here as a candidate for Councillor.

in the 2026 Teking election.

I've been part of this community my whole life. I've dedicated over 30 years of serving our people as a police officer.

Through that time, one thing has always stayed clear to me. Our strength comes from our people, our culture, and how we support one another.

The values that guide me are simple. Safety, unity, respect, and accountability. These aren't just words to me.

They've shaped how I've worked, how I've made decisions, and how I've served this community every day.

Now, I want to continue that service in a new role.

My focus is on five key priorities. First, our youth. They are our future. We need to support their education, their connection to culture.

and create opportunities that give them a strong path forward.

When we invest in our youth, we invest in the future of Chiging.

Second.

Our community. We need a strong, safe, and sustainable infrastructure.

Places where families can feel secure and supported.

That means careful planning and making decisions that will benefit.

Will benefit making decisions.

Hmm, uh...

Not just today, but for years to come.

Third, our culture. Our traditions and language and our teachings are the foundation of who we are.

We must continue to honour them. Our elders hold the knowledge that is invaluable, and it's our responsibility to listen, respect, and carry that forward.

Fourth, our wellness. Health and well-being impact every family. I support efforts that promote safety, mental health, and overall wellness for all members of our community.

And fifth, our economy. We need to create opportunities, support local growth, and strengthen self-determination.

A strong economy builds stronger families and a stronger community.

As a leader, I believe in making informed, practical decisions based on facts, logic, and common sense.

But just as important, I believe in listening.

Respecting different viewpoints is how we move forward together.

I'm someone who plans carefully, follows through, and works to get things done in the right way. I'm patient.

I'm accountable.

Take responsibility seriously because this community deserves that.

I see Changing as a strong, diverse, and unique community.

We already have so much to be proud of.

And if we continue to work together with respect and unity, we can build an even stronger future.

Our children are watching us.

Our elders are guiding us.

It is up to us to carry that forward in a good way. As I move forward into this next chapter of my life.

I want to continue giving back to the community that has given me so much over the years.

I would be grateful for your support. Miigwech. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Two minutes to spare on that one.

Next candidate is Jared Entz.

Jared Entz?

Jared Ince.

Did somebody check the hallway? Oh, I'm just kidding. I'm not in court here, sorry.

Donna, speak once.

Donna Smiguans.

Donald, speak once. Nope.

Lynn Bowerman.

Lynn Bowerman?

Lynn Bowerman.

Nope.

Oops.

Jeannie Dabosky.

Jeannie Dabosky: When do I start?

Pat Medahbee: Your time starts now.

Jeannie Dabosky: My platform is called Moving Forward Together.

Miigwech tuskini nungun nikit. Dikit. Kijiwigo, amino counselor, wiyao yamina gabi ngw.

Mis manda nunga je kwej mennegok, kim kwej mennegok, kim kwej mennegok, goje pa'ya apa na nibua, eje mis jeke go enendemek, ma.

So Jeannie Debosky is my legal name. I'm standing here before you today.

To let you know I have been listening to you.

To the concerns.

hopes and voices within the community, all of your thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

are valid.

And important.

Your hopes are going to be the motivator to move forward.

Your voices are the guide.

My experiences and my values, my experience comes from a lifetime rooted in our language.

teachings, and our community values.

These have led me to understand the benefits of hard work.

Need for high values.

Patience.

Commitment.

in taking my time and research the answers before giving an answer.

As you may know, I am a fluent Ojibwe speaker.

I was raised at a time when every household spoke the language.

People understood our ways.

And all had spent decades.

Listening to the stories of firsthand experiences of the people in the community.

At the heart of all of it was community.

This is what I bring with me. Along with over 10 years teaching Ojibwe.

and history, Anishinaabemowin history to our young people.

30 years of entrepreneurial experience.

31 years of regulated military life style as the wife of a veteran.

I have four children.

Nine grand grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

along with literally raising many other young teenagers. Currently, I am playing a very important and vital role.

in the life of a foster baby within my home.

I believe in life.

long learning, and I'm currently working on my degree.

I believe in who we are.

Especially when faced with difficult challenges.

Where we have been and where we are all going together.

Leadership.

It's about listening.

Hearing the people clearly and acting in their best interest.

My approach?

is a two-eyed seeing.

I carry a two-eyed seeing approach, one grounded in Anishinaabe values.

ways, and understandings, while having successfully navigated colonial spaces my whole life.

Community concerns. When speaking with you and listening, I hear concerns about transparency.

Housing.

Mental health.

And addictions.

And losses have all... we have all endured within our families and in our community.

Pat Medahbee: One minute.

Jeannie Dabosky: Okay, nahow

These are not just...

Long-standing issues. They are entwined in our very families. Many of us are carrying this trauma. We can heal. We can learn, grow together if we move forward.

My priorities as a counselor.

will be transparency and accountability.

Supporting language and cultural revitalization.

Elders, healing programs rooted in both Anishinaabe and Western approaches. Land-based learning for all ages, child welfare, and youth empowerment in education.

I bring experience, integrity.

Cooperation, commitment in the best interest of this.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Jeannie Dabosky: All right.

I have never missed a council meeting. Once I commit, I am in 100%.

Pat Medahbee: Time is up.

Jeannie Dabosky: Miigwetch.

Pat Medahbee: Jeanette Korsten Ense Debassige.

Okay, your time starts now.

Jeanette Korsten Ense Debassige: Ani Kenawea.

Chiging Minwa Sudbury Dhonjaba.

Hello, everyone.

My indigenous name is Northern Lights Woman.

And I am from Chiging First Nation, but presently living in Sudbury.

My Christian name is Jeanette.

I am very humbled to be here.

And to have you listen to what I have to say. And hopefully support me and vote for me on election day.

I'm very proud to be an Ashnabek queer.

And I am most proud to say I am from Chiging First Nation.

I am the daughter of the late Gustin Loretta Debosky, and mother of Ramona Entz, the late Jeremy Entz, and stepmother to Tyler, Brittany, and Canessa.

I am the wife of Ken Corsten, a Cree from the James Bay Coast since 2002.

And I am the proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren.

When I relocated to Sault Ste. Marie after my late husband died in 1984.

I learned to be resilient and to adapt to my new surroundings and definitely matured quickly.

I was 24 at the time.

Over the years, I acquired a valuable education.

remarried, and relocated a few more times, but I always maintained my roots and my connections to my home, Chiging.

I learned the importance of relationships.

Positive relationships.

I learned the importance of listening.

Listening not only with your ears, but with your eyes and your heart.

I learned the importance of learning from my mistakes and moving forward to make positive changes in my life.

I believe I can bring my learned experiences and values to contribute as a band counsellor.

But most importantly, I learned about who I am and where I come from.

So what does that have to do with today?

What is my platform?

My platform is building positive relationships, so we, meaning all of us working together, can make positive changes for our community.

We have serious challenges with drugs coming into our community, serious drug addictions.

A shortage of housing, and a lack of capacity to fill the positions in our community with our own people.

Furthermore, we need to treat each other with respect.

within Band Council and the community.

I'm not saying we need to hold hands and sing Kumbaya.

But I am saying we need to be respectful of each other.

We need to help each other.

Working together is key to addressing and coming up with solutions to our challenges.

Over the last 27 years, I've held several positions throughout my career in education.

I was a teacher, a principal, and more recently, director of education.

The importance of education was instilled in me at an early age by my late father and former chief, Gus Dabowski.

He saw the value of education and the positive impacts it could have on our community.

This is one of the reasons he pushed so hard years ago to have our own school in our community, and not have our children transported to Mindemoya.

I would like to see our next school become a reality sooner rather than later.

I'm aware we have plans for one of.

Plans for one, but where does it stand in the grand scheme of things since the initial plans were discussed? Education is the key to helping our community make positive changes.

I'd like to say how appropriate the timing is in holding this election at this time of year. The springtime, a time of new beginnings, a time for change, and a new direction, and a fresh start.

If you want all of what I've listed, vote for me, Jeanette Corsten.

I am a team player who will listen, share, and contribute to help make things positive, to make a positive change in our community. We can do it.

I know we can, but we need to do it together.

Pat Medahbee: Time.

Jeanette Corsten Ense Debassige: Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Perfect.

Andrew Martin Snooze Corbier.

Hey, your time starts now.

Andrew Martin Snooze Corbier: Miigwech.

Aanii M'Chigeeng.

Jawanong Megazenene, Manitou Nimki Benes.

Jeanine Doanjiba. Makwa Dodem.

My Indigenous name is South Eagleman, Spirit Thunderbird.

I am from Chaguin First Nation Bear Clan.

My English name is Andrew Martin Lyman John Corbier.

Yes, I have a long name.

My grandparents are Faye Corbier, Lyman Corbier Baugh, Cecile Madabi Baugh, Ralph Beyer Baugh.

My mother is April Corbier. My father is Martin Bear.

I'd like to thank everyone.

Thank you for nominating me.

I'd also like to thank the ones for making this happen.

For setting up all the chairs, for setting up the technical.

Uh, for...

Off reserve members as communication is key.

If elected, I look forward to working with a great team to represent the people.

I will do what's right, what's fair, what's just for the people.

Transparency, honesty, and love will help us all. Following the seven grandfather teachings is a must.

I want to bring back that unity amongst the community.

I've always believed that it takes a community to raise a child.

We have to look out for one another.

Because there's a Thunderbird in all of us. So let's thrive and soar together as a community.

There is a grand envision for Chagin, and I'd like to share that with you all.

Being a first responder, we always put people first.

We look out for one another.

Watch each other's backs.

As health and safety is a must.

My emergency management knowledge will help the community in being more prepared.

as we've had.

2 substantial weather systems this past.

Once that put everyone in jeopardy or in a euchre all across the island, North Shore.

Being prepared, having a plan would help us.

I'd like to thank everyone for their time and hearing us speak.

Remember, vote for Snooze, you won't lose.

Migwetch.

Pat Medahbee: Brenda Roy.

Brenda Roy.

Brenda Wright, there she is.

Your time starts now.

Brenda Roy: Ani, bonjour. Brenda, additional costs?

I'm .

I, uh...

I accepted his nomination this time around, um, and...

I guess I never really...

put myself out there to see what I had to say or offer to community.

But I believe that there are serious issues that are happening within the community at this time.

Umm.

Working.

I have years of experience that I've.

worked within Tribal Council servicing six First Nation communities.

In community health, um...

Mental health, home and community care, long term care.

And...

I remember starting out from high school, working at the band office.

My supervisor was Alfie.

So I remember Alfie being very strict with finance.

If he was out 5 cents, he had to find it.

And back in those days, ledger sheets were this long, so it was like looking for... and he would plop that on my desk. He says, I need you to find it.

And it would take me a week.

To try and find it, and then when, uh...

It didn't balance for the month. He's owed 3 cents. Okay, look for it.

So I'm looking for it. And then I I.

I feel that I've carried that, um...

commitment today because.

If a job isn't done.

I continue to work at it until I know that it's completed.

Um...

I tried to give him the 5 cents. He says, no, you need to find it.

It didn't work like that.

But all it was was is just back in the day they wrote checks. So it's not like they were typed or printed and and.

a three looked like a eight. So it's like, okay, that was the error.

But happened over and over again.

Um...

Also, I have over the years, I've attended ceremony.

And connected with various knowledge keepers.

Okay.

healers and.

and elders who supported my spiritual journey and healing.

um...

And this is something that I would like to support others in seeking within our community, beginning with our youth.

and children.

It is important.

And sometimes...

It gets away from us from the challenges of the day, and I find that the challenges that they're faced with.

Um, is now...

Drugs and addictions and.

you know, what's next? And what worries me is the trafficking piece, because now they're talking a lot about that, and I think we need to be prepared.

So that we are making- make sure that our children are safe in the community.

Um...

I also...

I'm looking forward to working with council. One minute.

Okay.

Working with council who have experience in different areas of governance, politics.

Um...

Policy.

And hoping to better...

um...

the organization.

structure through positive means and looking at.

Uh, concentrating on our seven grandfather teachings. And, um...

That is what I would like to offer. Thank you.

Mm-hmm.

Pat Medahbee: Tammy Madabi.

Okay, your time starts now.

Tammy Madabi: On each again, First Nation members. My name is Tammy Mugabe.

Um, for those that don't know me, I am a sister, daughter, Lyman, Corbier, and Fabe.

And soon to be eight grandchildren and one on the way. I reside in Omdekanakaning.

Join me and let's continue to work as a whole to help better our community for generations to come. Let's break the damaging behaviors and thoughts.

that we put upon us by outsiders. Let's help each other understand underneath the integrational trauma, limiting beliefs, there is also great international strength, pride in our identity as a community.

And as a family, as in individuals.

What do you think will make that change? How will we get where we want to be? I am looking forward to figuring that out with the community needs.

To better prepare us for togetherness. It takes a teamwork to start to change, it takes the power from within, and everyone in you to fulfill those dreams.

To believe prosperity again, build loving and healthy relationships, we can do it. That is the power.

Everyone matters. Everyone deserves to be fulfilled, serviced community. We also deserve the unwavering support from community.

That in itself is prosperity. That is power.

We all need to work together, break free from stuck in the mud, being in the past. We need to stop our finger pointing.

And I want to help.

The process of reclaiming our unity. Let's get back to being safe and loving community and help each other.

What efforts making individually as a family to make that happen?

We need to focus on our kids, empowering our youth, have purpose without judgment.

What purpose we choose?

They need and feel to matter.

They need to feel safety in their homes in the community.

I know I can continue the process of bringing us back together. I will be transparent. I will do my best. I'm only one person.

But I can listen, and we can collaborate and figure out solutions together.

As I run for council, I am serving the community in integrity and action. If elected, I will be reliable, present, and prepared for every council meeting.

Active listening, bringing your concerns forward to chief and council shared with me as.

They were given.

Providing clarity, information, community members, whatever things are unclear.

Ensuring the council as a collective follows through and completes the goal set.

And a vision for a better community. I'm asking you guys to hold my hand.

Hold on a second.

If everybody can grab each other's hand, that'd be great.

You're only good. I know. I only got five minutes.

Only for a company.

Absolutely. Building unity.

Fostering a spirit of cooperation, working together as one.

Positive leadership, modeling, respect, different opinions, and seeking solutions rather than engaging in finger pointing.

Moving forward, focusing on our goals instead of remaining stuck in the past.

Professional service, ensure council and staff, community, and while honoring the sovereign grandfather teachings.

One minute. Okay, listening to the voices and the children of the youth, the seniors, empowering them to the solution, focusing on fundamentals, the basics, ensuring effectively addressing.

It's one person I commit to do these values, passionate, and we achieve good things. And that's the opportunity I deserve. And this is unity. Look at us.

Bye. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Kim Alec Cyr.

Kim Alec: So for people who don't know who I am, my name is Kim Ehlich. I'm from Chiging here, Johnny Park Drive, and very proud of that.

That area of the community and the whole community as a whole. Just wanting to express my gratitude to Geraldine and starting us off in prayer in our community. And some of the comments that Geraldine spoke about, she talked about our community, the need for safety and the need to remember our children and our youth.

as well as, um, the people that are struggling. Our veterans, that all rings true, uh, to what I believe in as well.

Um, to my fellow councillors who have... who I've gotten to know and serve with for the past two and a half years, um, we've had some really positive discussions, and we've had some evenings where I felt like I was on Survivor, trying to figure out which side of

the island I belonged, or if I even belonged. So, when I, uh, served this term, I... I... I thought I knew my community.

standing before you, I knew nothing about the intricacies of our governance, our operations, our... some of the challenges that we would face. I learned a lot, and I continue to want to learn in regards to what it is that we.

as community stand for. I certainly want to thank the community members that are here this afternoon and the people that are online. I think it's so important to take a look at, you know, we are a community. We're all part of this community, whether you live.

here in Chiging, or whether you live in New Mexico and Alberta, and that's where some of our community members live in.

I brought in 2023 experience in governance and a deep love for my community. Again, it's, you know, some of the funding structures that we've had to respond to, some of the challenges that we would face and some of those teachings have been.

significant for myself and for some of our members of community and council.

Um, I want you to know that, um, and certainly, um, my experience, I've been involved in child welfare for over 40 years, and I left my professional career, um, having worked with the Chief Coroner's Office, so I've seen.

some really challenging situations, but I've also seen resiliency, and I've also seen opportunities for change, and when I look back on my career in child welfare, I also know that I've impacted that change, and people come up to me, and I'm an honorary aunt.

to a number of people, and I know that's because I treated people with respect.

When I look at why we're here today, I know leadership is an important role and we must acknowledge the issues that are focusing and facing our community and provide strategic

direction. Where are the community needs? Where are they? And we must be part of that community.

Leadership cannot carry it alone. It's the entire community, and it's unrealistic to think that Chief and Council will fix everything, because we can't. We can't. We're part of the solution.

Recognizing that strong nations require strong administration. My fellow counselors and community members will know that I am the person that asks the questions. I am the person that will push for some of those difficult conversations.

And I ask those questions because I really think that if I have those questions, others will have those questions. I feel it's my responsibility to ask, where does the funding come from? What are the long term costs? Who is being impacted and how?

I want to make informed decisions. What will this problem solve? And have we considered other alternatives? I ask, is it representative of all of the community? One minute.

I recognize that strong nations require strong administration and skilled people. I want to thank staff who've pointed out that there's still work to be done. Operations is something that we continue to work with and it's a fine line, a fine line between governance and operations.

My platform simply is committees, continuing to talk to people from compassion, compliance, constructive feedback, teachable moments. And I'm here to say that accountability isn't bullying, critique isn't hate or personal.

It's about growing as a community. Community members need to vote for individuals who aren't afraid to ask the questions and aren't afraid to push forward. I think last time I vote or my platform was I have a small family.

So I'm not being affected by, um, you know, who's who. That... I'm... I'm a voice, and I've certainly been part of that voice. Thank you for the opportunity. I'm glad to see so many people here.

Have a great day.

Pat Medahbee: Our next candidate is Robert Bowden.

Robert Bowden.

Robert Bowden.

Thank you.

Travis Corbier.

Your time starts now.

Travis Corbier: Everybody, it's awesome to see you all here. I don't see everybody here enough.

So my name is Travis Korbier, and I'm from Chiging.

I spent my whole life here.

Although I was born in Sudbury at the hospital they tore down, um, this is where I've spent all my life. Uh, I biked the back roads when they used to be all gravel, or not, yeah, gravel.

I think I still have scars on my wrist from crashing.

I spent a lot of time in many of your homes as well. Growing up, I've played ball with a lot of you. I've learned from a lot of you as coaches, as mentors, and I've taught some of you, which is the neat thing. I'm a lifelong learner of just trying to figure out.

Like, what is life? And how is that supposed to shape who we are as a people?

Um, I've been committed to chicken my whole life. Um, I had opportunities to leave and go to school.

I went to Sudbury for a little bit, and home just kept calling me back, so I only went for a short period of time.

Then I came back to work. It then led me to education. I started my career as an educational assistant back in the day. And then I did all of my undergraduate degrees here in Chiging, actually, out of Kenjikewin Tech.

which is an awesome resource we do have in town. My parents are Lynn Bowerman and Dennis Corbier. As you can tell from my hairline, it's probably pretty well the same.

I'm honored to be the second youngest up here tonight after summer at the ripe age of 41.

Umm.

What I do for work, I'm a principal. I'm assistant principal for the Rainbow District School Board. And prior to that, I worked as an educator at Lakeview School for 19 years.

Umm.

One of the things that I learned from mentors is the people you work with, like the kids that are in your class and things that you.

kind of do. You got to treat every single one of them like they're your family or your nieces or your nephews or your aunts or your uncles.

And I think that's what I've always tried to do.

When you see me in public, I may be quiet.

It's because I've got a six year old.

That keeps me busy and making 100 decisions a day that I don't want to make. Work also, you have to make a lot of decisions on the spot.

So if you see me at arenas or standing around and just staring off into the distance, I'm not crazy.

I'm processing my thoughts.

And I think that's one of the things that I bring to a team in the event that I'm a successful candidate that you see me wanting to sit here is I like to make informed decisions.

Um, as a principal, that's kind of what you have to do. You have to take both sides to a story and find common ground for everybody to walk forward in the best way possible.

And that's how I approach any situation, right? Um, I know a lot of you, growing up, we spent a lot of times running around Pinewood Park, even though we didn't have to, when Ray would drive by.

We just bolt off.

But yeah, those are the type of decisions I like to make. Know that that's what you'll get if you feel I'm the right person for the job.

Um...

Another thing I want to promote when we get to this kind of work or any of the work that I do is.

It's easy to pickle problems.

In our community, it's easy to pick out all the issues and all the concerns we have.

Because they're the loudest ones.

But if we get into those spaces, we also need to come with solutions.

Because expecting one of the ten of us plus the chief to fix all of those is unrealistic. It hasn't worked.

Right?

Because it's we that has to do the work.

Okay? I remember growing up as a kid and seeing, you know, countless parents and volunteers at the rinks. I didn't know half of them, but they still put in the time.

And it made me a better person to learn that at a young age. And I think that's what matters here, right, is as we're all sitting here judging everybody, because that's what we do when we're trying to pick people for these seats.

Umm.

Know that it's not a vote for me, it's a vote for we.

Because we're the ones that can solve all these problems.

So again.

Happy to hear anybody's concerns and wonders, but know that I'm probably going to counteract with, well, give me a solution as well.

Because usually what I've seen in teams that work well together is if you bring a solution, we build on those opportunities for growth, and then we put ideas into action, right, that actually benefit people.

So that's me in a nutshell. Like Ray, I'm not duping out just because I have prior commitments, but I have kids and I got to cook supper, so I'll probably be gone at about 4:00. I like to be a dad that's present. So and all the best.

Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Michael White.

Your time starts now.

Michael White: My English name is Michael White.

And I get to talk about me for five minutes here. So what I want to do is the platform is transparency.

I thought I'd be quicker with this. Transparency, communication, connection. So the place to start for me is who I am.

So I'm Bear Clan. Both my parents are band members from here. My grandmother went to the school across the river, and when she came back after that.

She didn't really fit in here, so she went to Toronto, and she raised my dad and sisters there. My mom...

She grew up in Kagawong and went to school in Espanola. She was raised by Forbes Resort, and once she turned 18, they gave her a bus ticket and sent her to Toronto.

So the matriarchs of my family.

have brought us to Toronto, and for me, it was very important to come back. And so what I've been doing, I bought a place.

Actually, it showed up in the middle of the night. I bought a prefab home, and it was delivered, uh, over to 48 Vimy Road. Everyone was coming out and watching. I felt like it was the burbs. Like, there's this truck coming in in the middle of the night. Um, but it's important to me.

Uh, also for my daughter to be able to reconnect here. So I'm on my way to the, uh... what's it called? The retirement plan. When I went to the BEN office to get the property, I thought it'd be, like, 10 years before I would get...

And I was very fortunate that there happened to be a lot that was there, so it pushed things ahead. And so what do I do now? I work in Toronto, I share custody with my daughter's mom, so I have to go back and forth. So I've been making efforts to reconnect here. In the past two days, it's been gardening.

So if you go by there, you're going to see, well, it's 70 plants. That's why I need the cane today, because my back's acting up. But I wanted to get to a sense of who I am. And so those notions of transparency, communication, and connection.

That's my intention is to be reconnecting. I already currently serve on the High Economic Development Board just recently as vice president. They just gave us titles. We were kind of figuring out as we go for a bit. So I'm quite confident I'm going to serve the community no matter what.

there's lots of, uh, candidates that are here, and it's a very, uh, large, uh, pool to choose from. Um, but I'm hoping you're remembering me from these stories. I'm awkward, and I just tell stories, right? So where I come from...

I'm a third-generation Torontonians. I've worked in education for decades and in leadership.

In terms of board governance, I've got about 25 years experience on the Miswee Beek Employment and Training Board.

And so, I'm very comfortable in those spaces. And the time that I've been with HIA, I've been really trying to listen to understand what the concerns of the people are, what the assets are. And I'm excited to be part of the future of Chaguin, regardless of...

Uh, whether I get in here, right? Uh, in terms of where I'm going, I think I mentioned it, I'm planning to return here. I just gotta work some years before I can get here.

And in that time, I've started a business. I have an Airbnb on the reserve, and that's helping me to get there. I also, like I said, I've planted a food forest. So, a couple of years come by, we got serviceberries, hackberries, all kinds of stuff. I'm really grateful for that.

In terms of my responsibilities, I have a 10-year-old daughter. I'm involved with ceremony, Anishinaabe Kendasman, since I was about 14. It was about 25 years of being there, being Anishinaabe, helping out.

I understand through that the burden of leadership that, like, unlike Shagana systems where people are going, and I guess we're doing that through this election process here, but it's the weight of carrying that, of not just taking care of yourself and your family.

but caring for the community.

And sometimes it's really difficult, right? So that's when I'm thinking about transparency.

Pat Medahbee: One minute.

Michael White: One minute? Alright, for the last minute, you've been sitting very patiently, I'm sure you're oversaturated, if you need to stretch or whatever, um, please go ahead and do that, but chi miigwech, thank you for taking the time to listen to my rambling.

Yeah, we'll see you around. Yeah.

Goodbye.

Pat Medahbee: Just so you know, we're gonna... we got about 4 or 5, maybe 6 candidates left, and then we're gonna take a... a short break before the, uh, Chiefs candidates come up.

So about six left.

Debbie Entz.

Debbie Entz?

Time starts now.

Debbie Ense: Sweet.

Too bad.

Pat Medahbee: Time has started.

Debbie Ense: Ani, can you hear me?

Each quake, skinny jig gets pizza jig, manoa.

Nasawita batan, um, mamoe na king.

No, um, bonjour.

Everyone, elders, youth, family, friends, and community members.

My name is Beneshikwe Debbie Entz.

I am honored to put my name forward for the position of...

council member for our community. I come before you with a gratitude, humility, and a deep love for our people. Many of you know me through my many years of service.

within our community, especially through my work in education over 30 years plus.

Throughout that time, I have had the privilege of walking alongside our children and families, helping...

guide and support them through their teachings of our Anishinaabek way of life and the seven grandfathered teachings that were gifted to us by our ancestors.

I've also had the honour of previously serving our community for a short while as an elected member.

That experience taught me the importance of leadership grounded in honesty, accountability, transparency, and respect for the voices of the people.

Leadership is not about one person making decisions alone. It's about working together, and carrying the concerns and hopes of the community with integrity.

Today, I believe more than ever that our community needs unity. We need to bring back the values of togetherness, kindness, respect.

and support for one another. I believe in building strong teamwork within leadership and throughout the community.

When we work together, support one another, and truly listen to each other, we create a healthier.

and stronger future for children, for our children and grandchildren.

Our youth and children are at the heart of our future. They need guidance, encouragement, opportunities, and strong connection to who they are as Anishinaabe people.

We must continue in creating spaces where they feel proud of their identity, their language, and their culture. I also believe deeply in supporting our elders. Our elders carry knowledge, wisdom, language, teachings.

And their lived experiences. That are valuable to us. They deserve to be heard, respected, supported, and included.

We need to create a stronger support system for them and ensure future generations.

Future generations have opportunities to learn from them. Language and culture are medicine for our people.

Reconnecting to our teachings, traditions, and ways of life make us stronger, not only as an individual, but as an entire community.

These are not things we leave behind, they are what guide us forward. If elected, I promise to serve honesty.

Truthfulness, transparency, compassion, and accountability. I will listen with an open heart and mind. I will continue to advocate for our families.

our youth, our elders, and our future generations. Most importantly, I believe that meaningful change only happens when we stand together as a community.

We all have a role to play in healing, rebuilding, supporting, and uplifting one another.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we can rebuild community connections. Together, we can create a positive future for the next seven generations.

One minute. More time? I timed this and this was five minutes.

And this is why I say it makes sense to vote ENDS. Miigwech. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Warren EJ Isabella Corbier.

Warren EJ Isabella Corbier: I managed to make it here today. My voice did not, so bear with me.

My name is Isabella Corbier, being again in non-Indigenous cause. I am the eldest child of Warren Corbier and Laura Patterson. I am the daughter of Norma Rita Corbier and Jim Baugh Corbier.

As well as Patricia Patterson. I am from Chigamingi. I have lived here for the majority of my life and I have worked all over.

I started all the way back at the age of 12 at Paul's Corner Store, and I made my way up to the Mental Health and Addictions Department, but I've also managed to work in education, social work.

Um, administration, I've been all over, and I've learned a lot in this community on the journey to find myself.

What I've learned most working in Chigamingi and with our people.

has been working directly with community, with our youth, with our elders, a lot of whom which.

are no longer with us today, but I carry their teachings with me in all of the things that I do.

I am honored and humbled to be nominated, and I am grateful to still be considered a youth at the ripe old age of 33. Miigwech for that.

Um, but I do believe that working directly with community is...

the forefront of what leadership should be.

Community means so much to me. I have worked here as often as I can on my education journey, coming back every summer, working with our youth.

And again, it's...

It's been such a blessing, but also really humbling to be standing here and seeing so many people that have shaped the woman I am today.

I am honored and a little terrified to be working and nominated against people who have really, really changed my life for the better.

But the one thing that I want to leave all of you with is that this is a responsibility, not a privilege.

This role does not elevate us.

as we are all still equal as Anishinaabeg of Chigamingi.

Wellness of a community is the responsibility of everyone, but it is the responsibility of us to lead the way.

Solutions will not be found. They are created.

So showing up is the bare minimum.

And this community deserves leadership committed to working together with everyone.

Miigwech for your time.

Pat Medahbee: Martin Daboski.

Martin Daboski.

Martin Dabowski.

Earl Debosky.

Earl Daboski?

Earl Dabowski.

Oh, there was one hiding here. We have three more names.

Marko Daboski.

Your time starts now.

Marko Daboski: Hello, my name is Marco Dabosky.

I am the grandson of Josephine and Jerome Debosky, my mother's daughter Debosky.

And that's basically it for that.

Okay.

The reason why I ran for council is because.

Simple.

Right now, when you want to be heard by council.

You gotta fill out paperwork, you gotta can only go on the first of the month, there's so many rules.

At one time, it used to be that people.

On top.

Now it's not. Never has been for the last probably ten years or so.

I'm running because...

Basically, I'm the guy that's willing to be the a**hole in the room.

When it comes to saying what needs to be said.

I said it before, say it again.

Some people listen, some people don't.

But you can't say I didn't say it.

And.

Everybody says we got to keep it positive, but.

Again, if you know the elementals, you know the earth, there's always a negative for the positive part of money.

Pardon my, yeah.

speech.

So you always have to have a little bit of both and if you can't.

You want to always be positive, well...

Test that with electricity and see what happens.

Anyways, the main thing that I want to speak up for...

is yes, we need more stuff for the elders. Yes, we need more stuff for the youth.

And yes, we need infrastructure on the reserve.

But, positive.

We have gone through.

One of the most redundant hydro systems there is on the island right now.

You know, when your power goes out, it usually comes back on pretty fast, right?

That's what we got from previous chief of councils.

And...

Now they talk about.

doing this or doing that, drug problem this, drug problem that. I hear a lot of talk about problems, but like the other candidate said before, you gotta provide solutions as well.

Well...

I'm waiting.

It would be nice to hear some solutions.

And the solutions don't have to come from the council members, because the council members are the ones.

who are supposed to listen and supposed to implement. And the chief is the one.

who basically stands in if, if, if.

There needs to be somebody to break the vote.

And the chief is the figurehead, so...

Preferably without scandals.

So...

That being said.

If I get elected as a council member, I'm basically just gonna be what I always have been.

The a**hole in the room who's willing to say what needs to be said.

Because the community spoke.

We said...

RHT, everybody gets it fairly.

Council, no.

We give.

to the elders. So we just bypassed the whole generation.

So that certain could get extra money in the pocket for what?

I don't understand.

I was always taught the seven grandfather teachings.

which kids eat first.

Adults eat last.

Kids, elders.

Adults.

No.

It's all about the elders. I'm sorry. That's not me. Never has been.

I do believe elders have their place, and I do believe they need to be heard.

Same as I do with children. Children need to be heard as well.

And currently...

Haven't seen it.

The reason I run.

like I said, to be the a**hole in the room to say what needs to be said, because...

Some people exist.

You can get through the lies and everything.

With a clear conscience, because nobody ever called you out.

Me, I call people out and I don't care.

Why? You want to know anything about me? Ask me.

You want to talk to me? Go ahead, talk to me. But I don't shun people. I don't do that other crap that some people do.

I've always been the person I am.

And I thank you for your time, people.

Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Grace Devosky Pilchey.

Grace Demosti Pelce.

Okay, your time starts now.

Grace Debassige Peltier: Great. Good afternoon, everybody.

So, for those of you who might not know me, my name is Grace Debassige. I lived in Chiging most of my life, and I've worked in the areas of, uh, education and health.

Uh, in my educational background, I'm in counselling, psychology, and Indigenous social work. I've been an entrepreneur since 2017, and continue to learn and expand my business, with most recently expanding into Indigenous...

Tourism and wellness.

In my past experiences, I have served on committees for Chiging First Nation, including education and training. I served there for two terms.

The Haya Corp, the current term.

I am the newly elected treasurer of that.

Corporation.

I served on the Chiging Elections Appeals Committee for two terms, the Chamin Tech Gaming Commission for over 15 years in the current term.

I was previously elected as a councillor in the 2018 and the 2020 term. I served as chairperson for the Chaminade Gaming Commission, Capital Projects and Public Works, and a role on the Executive Committee of Council.

I currently have a 3-month-old baby, Keanu, who continues to teach me every day, and thankfully, my name was called last because I was sitting over there breastfeeding.

This new perspective has.

brought me joy, hope, and compassion to create a lifestyle that supports both my family, my child, and my community. My hope is for my baby boy, Kiana, to be proud of where he comes from and to know his identity living in Chiging and on Manitoulin Island.

To help lead a future of opportunity, I have accepted my nomination and am ready to serve our community in meeting its best interests of the present and of the future.

The five priorities that I have identified for my platform includes community, communication.

And the importance of keeping our membership up to date and informed regularly on project statuses, projects, and updates, including community consultations when needed, and having regular community meetings.

that are focused on strategies to keep members engaged and to listen to programming and operational needs coming from the members in the different ages, whether that's elders, children, adults, and everybody in between.

My second priority is looking at community safety as we navigate new times and trends to meet the safety needs of today.

This can include community initiatives and partnerships with organizations and governments.

My third priority is looking at working with our departments and leadership.

to actively lobby and apply for federal and provincial.

proposal-based funding for each of the sectors of our community.

There's plenty of money available, and we just have to follow the process of...

Playing their game, filling out their proposals.

And I would like to see notice of successful proposals awarded and even not awarded.

to show that our community is actively seeking funds.

My fourth priority is I'm committed to working with leadership and departments to invest in creating outdoor and green spaces for our members to use and enjoy.

This includes enhancing and developing our parks, playgrounds, beaches, boardwalks, and trails.

Including the Chiging hiking trail and looking at the 10,000 acres.

My fifth priority is looking at investing in First Nations housing needs, whether that be apartments, two-bedroom units, three-bedroom units, individual CMHC builds, and renovations.

I would like to see a housing strategy and progress on the new subdivision developments. And thirdly, I would like to see proposals simply for CMHC funding.

And that Chiging is ready for new builds when funds become available in two times of the year, which is the new budgets, and at the end of the year.

When other First Nations decide not to build, money's free up, and if you're ready to build and your proposals are ready.

The monies are granted.

Thank you for listening to my platform.

Hope you enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

Thank you very much.

Pat Medahbee: Okay, this is the last name in the box. Said we'll take a five minute break after this.

Candidate.

G'mewin Miigwans.

Welcome.

Okay, time starts now.

G'mewin Miigwans: Ani kinawea. Mampi nita isak nitzkeak.

Gmail and Dizhnekas.

Nishikoyak Jinkarik Ji.

Pine Street, Tendayang.

Nimampi, don't you want?

Magazine Dorem, Nishnaabe Kwendaal.

I have my husband, I have my four children, and my two dogs at home. They keep me nice and busy.

I also have lots of family members and a lot of friends who live here amongst us.

Um...

health. If you don't know me, you don't know me, but I'm here, and I'm gonna stand here, and I'm gonna be the voice for you. I've always been a voice for you. I talk fast, I talk hard, listen fast, listen hard.

Um, my experience and my background for my life since I was 16 years old, I've, uh, put myself into politics, I put myself into culture.

I attended meetings with the UOI, Chiefs of Ontario, UCCM. I installed myself there because I wanted to be there.

Because my heart cares for us.

I wasn't, uh, told, I wasn't nominated, I wasn't...

Took him by the hand. Actually, I was once Peggy, thank you. She even got me, she took me to a meeting, which totally inspired me to go for more.

Um...

I am an auntie.

I have 25, probably by the end of this term, 30 great-nieces and nephews.

And I like being an auntie. I care for those children, I watch those children, and I'll kick butt for those children.

And I'll do that for my community as well. I'm little, I'm small, but my voice is grand and large.

Um, as for resources, like I've said, I've traveled many places, I've sat at many councils, I've sat in many rooms, courtrooms, assemblies.

whichever lodges I've sat in multitudes of places. I have a lot of experience behind me. I know I'm saying a lot of stuff all over the place because I only have 5 minutes.

So I'm trying to get it all out. I don't write a speech, because this is all coming from my heart. Okay? I'm doing this because I love yous, and I love myself. It took me a long time to grow up, to learn to love myself.

But I do. I love all of me, smallness and all. And I am able to now expel that and put it outwards towards you guys, my family, my friends, my community members.

Everybody. The dogs. Everybody. Okay? I'm getting down to the nitty-gritty. I want to look into the past finances that Qiging has had.

Um, I was Chiging's youngest elected council member at the age of 23. I am now 42.

I've been doing this, like I said, over 20 years at my own expense, at my own want.

So I have memory. I have a good memory. And I remember the BCRs that were passed here in Chiging. And I remember financial institutions that were developed that were supposed to be coming forward to help the members of Chiging.

I no longer see those in our paperwork. I no longer hear about these processes that were developed 15 years ago that should have been utilized in helping today.

There are processes that are sitting on the back table that were supposed to come forward. There were BCRs that were developed that were not supposed to be cut, but they were cut.

And I sat there, and we sat there as a group of people saying.

We're doing this because we have youth who want to be entrepreneurs.

We have people that want to grow up here and do stuff here. They want to work here.

They want to live here.

There's no place to live here.

There's no place to work here. Everybody's struggling and fighting for...

Scraps at the table.

So my platform is growth.

Transparency.

Voice.

And I'm not scared. I'm not going to be angry. I'm not going to be sad.

Because I was told all my life it's so easy to be mad.

Because it's easier than being sad.

Everybody's all pissed off here all the time.

Ganjada, stop it!

Let's love each other.

Now, miigwech. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, you've heard the vision and the passion amongst these, uh, councillor candidates. I think you're gonna have, uh.

Difficult time choosing amongst the talent that's come before you today. So we're going to take a five minute break.

And we'll be resuming in five minutes, whether you're here or not. So especially you two chiefs candidates, be ready to go.

Marlene, are you here? We're going to need the clock.

There we go.

Marlene?

Marlene, come on back. Good to see all of you.

Hello, Marlene.

Okay, I'm gonna go ahead and get started all time. I'll use the timekeeper myself.

We have only two candidates, so we're almost done, and then we'll try to have some time for questions after. So here's the big box with all the list of candidates.

First candidate is Forrest Forry Hare.

Okay, your time starts now. Jeez.

Forrest Forry Hare: Ani.

Everybody hear me okay?

You should. Yep.

Well, on each again.

My spirit name is Huge Bird.

Not Big Bird on Sesame Street.

But Big Bird.

My parents are Joe and Joe Baugh and Susan Hare. My mother's here today.

I've got my siblings, Tom, here.

Peanut hair.

And I've lived here in Chiging all my life.

Like, I was listening to the other candidates here come up and, you know.

It's nice to...

It's nice to hear.

It's nice to be here, you know, talking to y'all, and it's nice to be out campaigning.

The thing I've been getting hearing a lot of is, you know, transparency, accountability, you know, the stuff we've all been talking about.

Um...

I'll get right into it.

You know, chicken.

You know, we've had all the tools and expertise to keep our membership informed.

It has been my experience among many others that we don't know what our administrations are doing currently.

Our budgets have not been released to the community as they used to be.

It is my belief that there are budget summaries that have been shared, but not in their entirety.

In order for an administration to be physically responsible, these are things that should be shared annually with members.

Historically, Chiging has had fairly positive track record with respect to sound financial management. However, these reports.

have not been made available.

During the last term.

And when they were, they're not completed.

These are all issues that need to be, you know, looked at.

And rectified.

Accountability.

Chiging is a large community.

And at any given time, we have several irons in a pot at any given time.

You know, we have windmills, we have, uh, you know, we have, uh, solar power down in southern Ontario. You know, we've had, uh, councillors come up, talk about.

You know, we have a lot of, you know, we have our own businesses here in Chicken.

You know all these things, you know.

you know, and then with, you know, with respect to the Van Thun project, the membership at large has not been kept apprised of its progress. Uh, you know, we had, uh, you know, the chief come up here just and speak about that.

You know, these are things, it's sounding like we have a real miscommunication from our band office to us.

And...

To me, that's a problem. It's a problem.

You know, when we...

It's a problem.

When our elders and our most vulnerable are not being heard.

and not being spoken for and listened to.

It's a problem.

One thing with RHT we can come out of is, you know, it was a large amount of money we all got, but that doesn't solve our problems. We're always going to have these problems of child welfare, of drugs, of homelessness.

That's not how we operate.

Last summer, you know, I remember seeing a post here in Chiging of a band member right outside our community here.

That's not who we are.

That's not who we are.

I'm getting a little serious here.

But, you know, we have serious issues.

And they all have to be dealt with.

And the one good thing that I'm seeing, or great thing that I'm seeing, and it's been mentioned, is how many young people are running this term.

You know, I've seen Matt come up, I've seen Isabella, I've seen all these young people come up.

This is what we need.

This is what we need to push forward. It's not just about the chief, as we said.

The chief needs counsel. We need to move forward together.

You know, one of the things that I noticed wasn't done in the previous term, no orientation for this council.

You know, none.

That's something that, you know, I would like to put forward.

You know, that needs to get done. I need to be able to sit down and understand all this financial management.

And so does my counsel, so we can report directly back to you in an honest, transparent way.

That's the real solution.

You know, we can talk and talk and talk, but those are things that need to get done. We need to bring everybody together here. This new council, whatever council we get, that's what we need to work with. We got to make sure they're informed. I got to be informed to make them informed.

to make you guys have all the answers that you need.

There shouldn't be a time where you come to the band office and ask for a budget that's passed.

Without all the information.

That's one thing I want to promise to you if elected.

When reported, you get everything. Nothing to be left out.

Absolutely nothing.

Anyways.

The other problem I'm hearing a lot of.

is, uh...

Bish? Hormones? Bish?

I'll drink yours.

The other thing I I wanted to breach and talk or talk about.

Was the, um...

Community knowledge.

You know, I'm hearing a lot of...

You know, we have a lot of white people in our band office. We have a lot of people who aren't here, who don't, you know, know our people. Amigwech.

And that's an issue.

You know, when did it become more important?

to have education go beyond community knowledge.

Community knowledge is us here.

Anishinaabe knowledge.

You know, we hear AI. I think my friend back here quoted it one time.

There's AI, artificial intelligence, but there's Anishinabek intelligence.

And that's who we are. Let's utilize that.

You know.

There's ways to hire and put people in top management positions of our own.

And we need to start looking into that, you know, and I'm seeing that in the young people. You know, we want to invite our... we want to bring our young people home. We want to make this a place, you know.

where we have great dances again, and we can, you know, have a good time, and meet together, and, you know, like the dinner we had the other night, it was... it was nice. It wasn't... as it said, it was planned by the people.

And when those plans by the people are executed.

That's what makes Jiging works.

Anyway, so I'm not going to take any more of your time.

Let's move forward in a good way.

Pat Medahbee: Our last candidate for chief.

Glenn Theodore Hare.

Glenn Theodore Hare: It all starts now.

Gibby gear, hip scarby.

Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

I want to thank all of you for being here today.

Nim dananen sa bun. Madanuna king ginakita.

Job was good.

It's all good to me.

Nick Gego.

I don't know how to explain it.

Peace, Nagatua.

Nimna nun dhan, dhabzindo khanda kshintik abhinandi b.

I don't know if I'll be able to answer this question.

Shunya, what you got there?

I'm in Dengjinder.

Kenigima nukki nuru zaalji nga bin.

North Bay.

Not Ontario.

Kaya wakang dike megaw si wi mat biyarge nisse ki dwa jega dekshonnya.

I don't know what to do with it.

What do you think about this?

I'm gonna share our...

Chaganash language here in the Snabe.

My Anishnaabe names, Gwen Goes, Glen Hare from Chiging.

I'm back from home.

I enjoyed my year and a half at OCF.

Put my name forward again.

You know, my wife...

Our boys.

52 years this year.

40 of them.

Our political years.

And believe me, they weren't easy.

But we're still together.

Conrad.

I still have their support.

You gotta have that, we gotta, I have to have that if I'm gonna run for office.

I've heard counselors here today.

I heard the Robinson Huron.

When I was the Grand Council Chief.

Deputy.

An Ontario Regional Chief.

I was not invited to the meetings.

I don't know why.

But if you elect me to office across the road here.

I mean.

For you.

I'll be in there.

I wonder, too, what he said. I don't think there's anything bad said about any of us, but it's just the communication.

Has to come back.

That I want to give.

Over the years.

I mourn with us here.

I don't care where I was.

When any of the members here...

Your family lost a loved one.

I tried to come home to every one of them, no matter where I was.

No matter where I was.

Because I know I had their support too.

If not Fort Chiging, I wouldn't be here.

Telling my history of where I've been.

I've been to a lot of places.

When we have jobs here, post it.

I encourage Kenoia and apply.

And I'm true to this word, true to this word.

You do not have to have a certificate for me to recognize you as a good worker.

I was given so many chances in my life. And look where it got me.

Sure, I'm not going to put somebody if I know them.

You know, if they had problems with money. History problems before. I'm not going to put them in the finance department. No.

That's common sense.

And most of all, I wish I had water.

That's everybody's water?

And we talk about drugs.

Those of you that remember when I was here.

I went to the front line.

I stood in front of anything and anybody.

Where there was weapons, I was involved as your chief.

Not knowing I was in danger until after.

I will still do that.

We still have kids taken from Chiging.

From us.

Some of our parents are not strong enough to stand, or the system.

maybe we're scared of it, I don't know, or what they're being said to. And I say that it happens today because my own grandson, too, just, what, a year ago, I fought like hell.

And they didn't take him. They were gonna take him to a little country, a safe home. My God, we can find a safe home in this community.

We can find a safe home in this community in two hours.

I was at a meeting once, came up here in Whitefish Lake to the Chiefs. I got a news for you.

We're doing better. We can find a safe home now for First Nation communities in this region in 15 months.

Fifteen months!

I just told you I can find one probably in 2 h.

This is where we need to pull together more so than ever.

Right now, the other day, you see, pick up the expositor. There's guns, there's knives, there's bows, and...

Thousands of dollars.

Roaming around in Chiging and everywhere. One of the first things I would like to really experience, like to be part of and experience is.

Dealing with these drugs is...

If I can pull together the leadership on Manitou, I'm talking about San Gregor, not just us.

Everybody's getting shot.

And everybody's dying.

If we can do something.

Together. And can you spin this?

If the municipalities don't, then I'll probably pick up that...

Feeling right away, then it'll be just us then.

But we can do it.

Just...

Run frontline of everybody.

We cannot be weak there.

I have never taken any drugs in my life.

And my sobriety has been 40 years, 40 or more, I think 40 years.

And that turned my life around.

I believe in banishment.

I believe in banishment, and...

I want to say miigwech. I just because I said something out loud and an answer. I heard the answer in the room.

this Chigener thing, Facebook, or whatever the whatever in the world it is that is.

So...

Devise our community.

Divide each and every one of... they talk about me, they talk about you, but they will not come up here and say that to me.

Chigina shut go.

That site or whatever it is, that is so bad.

If you have the guts to say anything to us, say it here in front of all of us.

That's the only way to do things here. So again, respect. There's so many questions.

That each one of us have. Landfill site. Look at our landfill site. Where is it at? We got a new one up there. What's going on? I don't know. I don't even, I don't know. Land was cleared up the road here, supposedly for bingo. Where is that? I don't know.

All the work's been done.

But we're stalling, we're spinning.

I'm surprised our landfill... 10 seconds. I'm surprised our landfill has not been shut down yet.

But anyways, there's so many things to do. After hearing all these counselors, sounds like my work will be somewhat easy.

Pat Medahbee: Time's up.

Glenn Theodore Hare: Miigwech!

Pat Medahbee: Okay, again, two distinguished gentlemen that put their vision forward for the community.

Again, you have hard choices.

So we're going to, uh...

Go to the questions. We've got about another hour, I guess, or more.

Uh, to look at questions, we got the...

Questions here, we'll pick randomly out of the box, and then we'll also pick randomly who should answer them.

So.

And that doesn't deter you from still putting questions in each individual candidate's, uh...

Little box that has their name beside it for a specific candidate's question.

Okay, this one is, will you bring back committees?

And this goes to Ray Corbier, and I think Ray left, right?

Jeannie Debassige.

There's the question right here. Yeah.

You got about a minute. Now, will you bring back committees?

Jeannie Debassige: You should be a guy there. Well, if you stick your hand up.

How many of you want to be on a committee? I have no problem bringing committees back. As long as you, once you commit to be on a committee. You be there.

It's a job.

It's Miwa. Anishki, walk it in.

Yeah!

I never missed one council meeting.

If I commit to you and you commit to be on a committee, it's like putting a wedding ring on.

You know, you commit, you be there.

And then we can work together. Otherwise, if you don't come, what's the point of having a committee?

Because I was on the Anishinaabe committee.

There was only five people.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Jeannie Debassige: All right.

That's all I got to say about those committees. Thank you all.

Pat Medahbee: Your time is up.

The next question is, what steps will you take to protect community members from repeat offenders and ongoing disruptive behavior?

Tammy Madabi.

Tammy Madabi.

Looks like she must have left.

Summer Beaudin.

I'll leave the question here for you.

You have one minute.

Go ahead.

Summer Beaudin: I think getting more UCCM officers and...

Peacekeepers.

Just having, like, more community watch, you know, that people are...

Not afraid to help one another when...

We need help like that.

And if there's ongoing disruptive behavior continuing, like to have a...

I can't think of the words right now.

Like they only get so many chances, then they can't come back.

Kind of a thing.

Yeah, I think just having more.

um...

community to help one another with that, and just having more patrolling.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Summer Beaudin: I guess that's it.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

Just again, for explanation, we're trying to keep it moving along so that we can get through all of the questions, because our experience is that when we...

Start to go through the questions. We always run out of time and people get frustrated that their questions didn't get.

the time of day. So we're hoping to try to get through all these questions.

Okay, the next question is, why is there always an in-camera meetings? What do you use hiding? Everyone should be able to go.

Stop hiding stuff on the people, and stop stealing on your people. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

I don't know, that's more of a statement more than a question, um, but, uh, anyone want to take that over? Why, why there has to be in-camera sessions?

I'll leave your question up there. Oh, yeah.

Tim Ehrlich.

Tim Ehrlich: I'm not afraid of any question. So, why in-camera? So, in-camera, sometimes we're dealing with personnel-related issues, sometimes we're dealing with child welfare-related issues.

That's the individual story when we're dealing with child welfare issues and it's their individual challenges, trauma and opportunities to succeed that we have to focus on. So that's why some of the in-camera issues occur.

From a human resource perspective, some of those in-camera issues, again, we're dealing with people's lives and looking at both sides of the story. I think some of the in-camera issues around Robinson-Huron, I think that might be part of the things.

That's being asked is, again, trying to look at all of the decisions and make sure that we're making informed decisions that will have the greatest impact on the whole community and support the community as a whole. So hopefully I've answered that.

Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: The next question, what is your strategy to help?

Not stigmatized are people who are living with mental health and addictions.

The chief's name's in there too. So the chief's candidate's name's in there as well.

Hold them in there? Yes, hold them in there.

Marko Debassige.

I'll leave the question up here, Marco.

Oh, we got specific questions for the chief. Okay, we won't put them in there.

Go ahead, it's yours.

Time starts now.

Marko Debassige: Simple, provide counselors.

Provide the proper counseling services.

Because right now, last I checked, we only have two.

So, definitely provide the counseling services and the appropriate programming that would be available.

by both the Government of Ontario and through the funding resources available.

Um, through INEX.

Not ISE.

That's it. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: For those up for reelection, what did you personally do?

No, if this is not a, if this is a new candidate, I don't know how they're gonna answer.

Well, Andrew Snooze Corbier, you're, were you on council before?

So this is asking for somebody that was up for reelection.

Yep.

Go ahead, Andrew, if you want.

Your time starts now.

Andrew Snooze Corbier: Well, I think more than anything, we got through the RHT time, which was a very divisive issue for the community.

I believe, you know, ultimately, we came to a decision where, you know, it... the majority of the funding, you know, certainly went out to community members, and... but, um...

I think there's... I think we... there's a lot of lessons learned from there that need to make... we need to make better decisions about the Manitoulin project, they need to be more informed by the community, and I do regret that there was a referendum in the community on the RHT, and...

We didn't follow that. I voted with what was in the results in the referendum, but I was outvoted for that. I think that was a mistake. I think community members should be driving that. Ultimately, why have a referendum if we're not going to actually let the community drive that?

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Andrew Snooze Corbier: just related to RHG, I just think it's still top of mind. I think we have to make sure that for Manitou and Project, it's really community-driven and community-led for what we're going to do with those resources.

Pat Medahbee: Time's up.

Andrew Snooze Corbier: Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

Blake.

Stewards of the land.

You know, sometimes when you write out a question, it would be helpful if we could read it.

Just give me a second here.

What does that say?

You read it?

He posed and led.

All right, a little difficult to understand this, but I guess the topic is stewards of the land.

Keeping the house and the land pleasant for the people viewing. Be proud of your homestead.

So what is your view?

I think is what the word is, I can't re...

The writing is, uh, kind of... looks like my writing, can't read it.

Anyway, what is the view? We'll see who has a perspective on keeping the land and your house and your yards and your homestead.

It's something you can be proud of.

Jeanette Dabowski.

Jeanette Corston.

Jeanette Corston: Yes.

Pat Medahbee: Can you read the question?

Sure

Pat Medahbee: go ahead.

Okay, time starts now.

Jeanette Corston: Um, the question, I think, reflects on being... taking care of our property, and taking care of our homes, so that they're pleasant to look at. I think it's picking up the garbage, um, um, getting rid of old vehicles that are in the way.

That kind of stuff. So being proud of your home, your home.

Makes you will help being proud of our community. So if we all take care of our own homes.

That will be a start for us to take care of the land.

That's what I take from this question. So I hope that answers whoever wrote it. Okay, miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: People have raised concerns about dark streets and safety. How will you respond to these concerns?

Michael White.

Questions right there, Mike?

Michael White: I was hoping for the land one, I could just invite you over.

Pat Medahbee: Okay, time starts now.

Michael White: Okay, people have raised concerns about dark streets and safety, how we respond to these concerns. I guess, first thing to do is take a look at what the community need is, like they mentioned about referendums, do we have the resources to change maybe the lights that are there?

I know for my property, people are cutting through. I put lights in so they don't trip and I don't get sued. But yeah, that's an important thing to think about. I also know we have the camera systems now at all parts of the community, so there is monitoring that's there.

That will hopefully be a deterrent.

Pat Medahbee: Okay. Thank you.

How will you strengthen partnerships between education and the employment opportunities?

Morgan Hare.

Morgan here. Looks like Morgan is gone.

Gail Payette.

Okay, your one minute starts now.

Gail Payette: I think the whole key is the collaboration part and the education, how we're going to work together as a community to enhance those. We need to do some research. We need to look into infrastructure programs. And we need to find out what people need and what type of things that they need to succeed.

And provide those, uh, collaboration opportunities, have community sessions, put out surveys, um, talk to our local, um.

organizations in the community, our businesses in the community, and see what type of employment assistance they need as well. Do they need new hires? And how can we support those new hires within the community by educating people to meet the standards of what they need?

providing more opportunities to enhance personal knowledge base, community knowledge base, and assisting others in a meaningful way for the betterment of Chickadee.

Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: What's your view on drugs?

Probably not very good.

Anyway, what's your view on drugs?

A little bit blurred maybe, you know.

This will be a question for G'mewin Migwans.

And your time starts now. Oh.

G'mewin Migwans: My view on drugs are...

Life lessons.

Our people are engaging in drug use.

Due to trauma, due to pain, due to lack of help in our community.

My view on drugs is it is a battle that we can fight.

It is a battle that we can utilize our love and overcome together.

My view on drugs is if you have a user in your family.

Please just love them.

Just hug them, tell them they're worth it.

They're here. Keep them here.

That's my view on drugs.

Love them. Don't let them go. Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

What difference will you implement to change communication?

Matt Corbier.

Your time starts now.

Matt Corbier: So the difference I will make to implement change in communication is we have to develop a grassroots way to develop our own interpersonal relationships. Person to person, we have to meet each other like this, and there has to be opportunities for us to meet like this. There used to be a time when we would have a meeting and people were excited.

There was a time when people would come here and some people would just come to eat, but at least we were here and we can talk about it. So we have to do that. And also for communications.

You know, we have to be honest. This is where this thing starts. We have to build a foundation to build.

something strong here. If we don't have a solid foundation based on communication, whatever we build won't be on the solid... won't be solid, and it'll crumble. It'll be like those roads when we just had that flood.

Interpersonal relationships and experiences. Love your family. Miigwech. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: How will you support both returning graduates and long-term band employees while ensuring that benefits, job security, and working conditions are strong enough to keep people working in Chiging?

Brenda Roy.

Yep.

Okay.

Can you read it? I'll read it again for you.

How will you support both returning graduates and long-term band employees while ensuring that benefits, job security, and working conditions are strong enough to keep people working here in Chiging?

Time starts now.

Brenda Roy: As counsel, I believe that it would take.

Um, working with...

Hr. Working with band programs and.

Um, ensuring that the band can offer those type of benefits to ensure that we have, or we're able to sustain a future.

for coming home graduates and making sure that the benefits are there. I know that is an area that is lacking or it's difficult.

To achieve, but um... I believe this comes from administration, and I believe it has to be work.

Um, done with Council's support to be able to do that.

Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

How have you been involved in the community?

Andrew Snooze Martin, Corbiere.

Your time starts now.

Andrew Snooze Martin, Corbiere: I've been involved in the community for quite some time. I've been a...

Firefighter for over 19 years. I was a fire chief for a year and a half.

Um, I did a lot of engagement with the youth at Lakeview School, the daycare.

They loved it. I would engage with them as much as I could.

At my capacity, I helped with coaching.

Many years, back to back champions for Little NHL.

Which was pretty cool. We actually have a...

Chiginer that's playing OHL right now, who I helped coach. So that was, that was being involved in the community.

I always...

I'm always, um, willing to help.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Andrew Snooze Martin, Corbiere: Community members, uh, especially the youth, elders, um, they can call on me anytime. I give them my personal number, that's how... much I'm involved in.

Pat Medahbee: That's time.

Andrew Snooze Martin, Corbiere: Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Small writing for sure. Can you describe your relationship with the community and how you stay connected to members outside of election time?

Brad Mack.

I hope you can read that small rating.

Okay, your time starts now.

Brad Mack: I think it goes without saying, my relationship with the community, I've been policing here for 33 and a half years.

Maintaining everyone's safety has been a priority of mine. I think.

You know, everyone's appreciated that in the time of need. We've gone through some really tough times, so I think my relationship is very strong.

um...

And how do I stay connected outside election time?

extensive visiting with family.

Uh, just driving around in the community, you know, still caring, and uh...

You know, over the years, giving back to the elders, providing them with moose meat, deer meat, fish.

Um, I've given... I was a beekeeper for a while, I've given honey to elders, uh, maple syrup, just giving back to the community.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Brad Mack: I think that, uh, bodes well for my relationship, and I believe my relationship is very strong. Miigwech.

Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: If you see unethical behavior or decisions within leadership roles, what steps will you take to address it?

Grace Debassige Pelctier.

Okay, your time starts now.

Grace Debassige Pelctier: I'll...

Well, having a social work background, part of our...

Values and integrity in our registration is about ethics.

And I think voicing a concern.

in the at that table and in leadership roles is that all decisions need to be made ethically.

And transparently.

And that a decision does not get passed or motioned if there isn't.

a full...

Support for that.

For that idea, or for that decision.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Grace Debassige Pelctier: So in a nutshell, I do not believe any unethical behavior should be conducted at that table. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

If funding became limited, what would be your top priority and what would you delay or cancel?

Debbie Ense.

Hope you can read that. The writing is pretty small.

Okay, your time starts now. Okay.

Debbie Ense: If funding became limited, what would your top priority and what would you delay or cancel?

If funding became limited, well, we would have to um.

Apply for more.

funding somewhere else. We've got to look for proposals. We've got to...

Keep it coming. We've got to work together. That mamwenaki, that's important because if we don't work together, where are we going to be?

If we don't support each other, where are we going to be?

I'm.

And what would your top priority?

I would think we would have to work together. That's the only way.

to move ahead.

And we would have to sit down at the table, we'd have to negotiate, we'd have to go out there, and we'd have to sit down, and we have enough people that would be in the council that, you know, that's been around, that's smart enough to say, okay, we're gonna sit down, we're gonna discuss this.

Pat Medahbee: Time is up.

This issue is for everybody.

What is your plan to keep experienced band employees working in the community and prevent turnover?

Isabella Corbier.

Time starts now.

Isabella Corbier: What is your plan to keep experienced band employees working in the community and prevent turnover? I think in my own experience over the years, and a lot of us have seen this, is that when we have great leaders, great department managers, great mid managers.

We don't see a lot of turnover because the staff feels supported. So we don't blame the staff for leaving. We start looking at what's happening in that department, in that program, in that particular area. And we really do an assessment on why this is happening and why people are leaving.

and then we provide them with the supports, and if the supports aren't coming from the leadership already existing, we need to start having discussions with those people. Miigwech. Thank you.

Pat Medahbee: Okay, we have one counselor yet that hasn't had a chance. What makes you different from the other candidates?

Travis Corbier.

Travis, well, he went home to look after his children, he was saying.

That's it. Well, that's it for questions for the councillors. So we'll now go to the questions for the chiefs candidates.

Is Jim here?

Okay.

So once we pick first name here, we'll just alternate after that.

So, uh...

Where do you stand with the drugs? What's your idea on this issue?

Forrest Hare.

New time.

Now.

Forrest Hare: Drugs, well.

I think we can all agree where we stand on the issue. We're obviously all against it.

One of the things I'd like to talk about specifically with drugs is, prior to this previous leadership, we had a working program in place.

And I want to make note that that program, while it was running, we hadn't lost a band member's life.

as the shortly after that program got.

terminated, put away, that's when we start losing band members again. So, you know, to me, you know, when we see a program that's working.

Whether you like the people who are running it or not, don't tear something down that's working.

And if you do, that's fine. If you do, replace it with something that works better, or at least that works as good.

Pat Medahbee: 10 seconds.

Forrest Hare: Chi miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Okay, this one is for candidate Glenn Hare. What is your strategy to help?

Glenn Hare: Not stigmatize our people who are living with mental health and addictions.

That touches on everyone's lives, not only in Chiging here, but I'm not gonna be any different being your chief as I was as Grand Chief. We have band members that I advocated, worked and fed in Thunder Bay in Toronto that are homeless, that are from this community.

And I would treat it the same here.

They are somebody's kids.

And so don't come to, like, don't come to us or anyone and give us, uh...

Don't shout at us.

Um, because...

There are kids too.

There are somebody's kids, somebody's sons and daughters. I love doing that kind of work.

There's no thanks to it, but there's a lot of, there's a lot of, um, miigweches to me, myself. I feel good standing here in front of each and every one of you to share that. Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Thank you.

No, well, we got a little bit of time yet. We're going to keep going.

You want to keep going with a couple more questions?

Okay.

What are the issues you will focus on?

All right.

Good? Yep.

Forrest Hare: Well, two of the main issues I'd like to focus on. One is, like as we said, the estrangement from our band employees to the people coming in.

You know, that's one of the things I've heard been, you know, going around talking with people is, you know, when they're calling the band office or coming into band office, we have employees there who can't pronounce our last names.

To me, that's a problem. If we have people who are working for us that can't even say our own last names, that's an issue.

So, you know, I want to foster, you know.

you know, a way of hiring within Chageng that prioritizes, again, community knowledge, as opposed to, you know, education is important, but it shouldn't be the first and foremost. It should be secondary.

The other one is transparency. And I think that's something we all agree on. And with that involves reporting, proper reporting.

Pat Medahbee: That's time.

Forrest Hare: Clear reporting. Miigwech.

Pat Medahbee: Will you include off-reserve band members?

In funding for...

Services.

A little hard to read again. Will you include officer band members in funding for services?

Glenn Hare: Will you include? Will you include? Well, why not?

Our voting is open to all reserve members right now.

We're asking for their help.

And a question like this.

That was always there for me.

You don't shut them out.

At some point, our kids will be out there.

Is that the kind of thing we want to hear? No.

Because at some point, again, when they reach their age, 50 or 60, they're going to come home.

So no, on and off reserve.

belong to in this building, in this community.

Miigwetch.

Pat Medahbee: Well, ladies and gentlemen, I want to encourage all the candidates that are running for chief and those running for council to stick around, and, uh, individuals can come up and ask you, uh.

questions directly, uh, of specific concern to each and one of you, and I thank you for taking your time out on a Saturday afternoon. That shows your...

uh, commitment to the community, which is so important. It shows your, uh, your view, uh, this process of electing your leadership is important, and you've got some really good candidates, and it'll be a good...

uh, thought process for you to sort out who you think can step up to the table and be the best candidates, uh, for your ex. So, chamigue, everybody, and you have a great evening. Thank you.

Yes, and just as we're going to ask again our elder Geraldine to close in the proper way.

And you could tell her opening did well, you know, where people respected each other, they listened, they saw all the things she talked about came through, came through here loud and clear this afternoon. So chummy guts for that.