

## **ELECT FOR COUNCIL – PAULINE JOHN**

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### **PUBLIC INFORMATION SHEET**

I am writing this letter regarding the upcoming nominations and elections as to why I believe I am a strong candidate for Council and an excellent representative of my home, Kehewin Cree Nation. First and foremost, tansi nitisinihkaasun Pauline John. I am an indigenous woman from the treaty 6 area. I am a mother of two children, their names are Terri Nayawatatic and Kenton Cardinal. I am a kokum to one grandbaby named Belladonna Nayawatatic.

I was raised in Kehewin Cree Nation. My parents, Gabe and Dorothy John, raised 10 of us children successfully. My father, Mr. Gabe John, had never wanted his children to live on social assistance, he constantly told us to work and go to school. He made sure that was ingrained in each of us. I had seen my parents struggle with feeding us and working for us. Due to this ordeal, my siblings and I have become resilient and hard working.

Both of my parents made it their mission for us to be involved in ceremonies. The men were oskâpêwis (helpers) and women were participants. Both of my parents have passed, but the teachings remained - my mother gave me strength, my father gave me spirituality.

In the cultural realm of my life, I speak and understand our Cree language. I practice and participate in my cultural and spiritual ceremonies, I have sun danced for 15 years of my life. I am a firm believer of our creator. I believe this to be the most important things to hold on to and I want to see it become more engrained within our community. Knowing our cultural teachings and language plays a

large role in our self-esteem, identity and mental well-being. If elected, I want to try to integrate as much cultural teachings as I can. I believe being bi-lingual is an asset because it allows me to communicate with our future generations and our elders.

Throughout the years I have held many roles, most of which, are in the human service field. Currently I am Supervisor with Children's Services in Eden Valley. Being a supervisor has helped build on my leadership qualities tremendously. As a supervisor, I do not misuse my authority, to instill fear in our people. I invite people to my office, I share my compassion, and my cultural learnings , I embrace their courage for speaking with me, as they perceive me as there leader for their community. I will use the same practice for Council as I do presently as a Supervisor.

I worked in the Child Welfare field for 9 years. Other areas that I have worked include being a Director at Sunrise Group Home in Kehewin, Personal Care Attendant in Kehewin, Child Care Worker in Saddle Lake, FASD collective project in Kehewin, Environmental Health Consultant in Kehewin and Brighter Future Coordinator in Little Red River.

Through previous employment I have gained many skills such as knowledge in legislation, proficiency in active listening and assessment skills, critical thinking with solution focused approach, the ability to work independently as well as part of a team, independent decision making ability and the ability to maintain a calm and sensitive demeanor. I would bring to Council not only my experience and knowledge, but also a positive and charismatic attitude. I am energetic, reliable, patient, innovative and responsible. I have exceptional communication skills and a strong ability to coordinate, organize and plan.

My education centers on human services and leadership. In April 2018, I received a certificate in Leadership from the Coady Institute. I graduated with my Social Work Diploma in

2008 from Blue Quills University. Other educational endeavors are as follows, Community Wellness Certificate from Keyano College in 1999, Community Health Representative from Lac La Biche in 1992 and 1st year Business Administration from Blue Quills College in 1991.

3 years ago, I have ran for council in Kehewin Cree Nation, and now I want to run again because I believe woman are the strength of each community. I am a firm believer in educating our people, sharing, using empathy, and coaching. I am policy driven, and I have a passion for our peoples to succeed. I believe I will be a successful leader, within my family system, my community and in the spiritual and cultural realm. HAI HAI