



ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS
TECHNICAL SERVICES
CORPORATION



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Amended Notice to Voting Members of Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) January 26, 2024

Proposed Slate of Nominees for the OFNTSC Board of Directors

This amended notice amends the notice distributed to Voting Members on January 7, 2024, has been amended effective January 26, 2024, to remove one proposed nominee for a director position. Mandy Wesley has withdrawn her candidacy based on other professional commitments. Due to time constraints, it was not possible to confirm a replacement candidate prior to the AGM. As such, the Board proposes that the 12th director position remain vacant at the time of the election on February 1, 2024, and that it will be filled in a timely manner in accordance to amend the provision set out in the corporation's Bylaw One to transition to a staggering of Director terms as described later in this notice.

The OFNTSC Governance and Nominating Committee is hereby proposing an amended slate of eleven (11) director nominees for the corporation's February 1, 2024, director election. Consistent with the corporation's By-laws, the terms of all existing directors will expire at the time of the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 1, 2024.

Attached to this notice are the professional profiles of each candidate and the relevant skills that each brings to their role as a director. The members of the Governance and Nominating Committee are confident that the proposed slate of nominees will bring the right mix of skills and diversity that the corporation needs to fully deliver on the mandate provided to it by First Nations in Ontario.

The process followed to develop the slate of nominees is consistent with the corporation's By-laws and included the following steps:

- An open call for applications, held open for 30 days;
- Review of the experience and credentials of each applicant by the Governance and Nominating Committee;
- Selection of a slate of nominees among the qualified candidates that collectively possess the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to fulfill the oversight functions of the board; and
- Communication of the proposed slate of nominees to the Board of Directors and Voting Members.



The proposed nominees for corporate directors include:

Two-year Term

Chris Buckell

Bill Hutchison

Aaron Genereux

Three-year Term

Kerry Black

Erin Corston

Paul Schisler

Roger Rozon

Four-year Term

Michael Jacobs

Cheryl Fort

Wendy Landry

Elaine Stewart

OFNTSC Corporate By Law One was approved on January 7, 2021, by the Voting Members of OFNTSC. At this time a requirement was included to introduce the staggering of terms of Directors of the corporation at the Corporation's Annual General Meeting for 2023. On January 25, 2024, the OFNTSC Board of Directors passed a resolution to modify the process set out in Bylaw One. The Board's resolution, dated January 25, 2024, is subject to ratification by Voting Members and modifies the term lengths of Directors for the February 1, 2024, AGM only. The term lengths to be as follows, 3 Directors will receive a two-year term, 4 Directors will receive a three-year term, and 4 Directors will receive a four-year term. For all future elections, starting with the AGM occurring two years from the date of the February 1, 2024, AGM, four directors will be elected to a three-year term, consistent with the process established in corporation's Bylaw One on January 7, 2021.

Questions about the process for selecting directors can be directed to OFNTSC's corporate legal counsel, Oliver W. MacLaren, Partner, Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP, omacclaren@oktlaw.com, 416.981.9331.



Nominee Profiles

Proposed Slate of Director Nominees

Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation



Kerry Black

Over the course of her career, Ms. Black has gained invaluable experience and exposure to infrastructure issues in First Nations across Canada. Ms. Black's experience has allowed her to gain recognition, both nationally and internationally, as a skilled researcher, passionate teacher, and proficient communicator. She is passionate about empowering and bettering the lives of others, most notably in Indigenous communities.

Ms. Black has served on the Board of OFNTSC since 2022 has spent much of her personal and professional time working as a volunteer on increasing diversity in science and engineering, sustainability initiatives and programs, and community development. She is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Environmental Engineering Research and Education and the Department of Civil Engineering, at the University of Calgary. She received her PhD from the University of Guelph with research focused on sustainable water and wastewater management in Indigenous communities.

Over the past 12 years, she has worked extensively in the academic, public, private and non-profit sectors, employed in technical, scientific, policy, and management roles. The majority of her experience has included working with and for Indigenous communities on urgent and pressing infrastructure issues across Canada. Her cross-disciplinary research has been featured in both engineering and social science journals. Dr. Black is a strong advocate for increasing diversity in science and engineering, sustainability initiatives and programs, and community development, including her work with Indigenous communities. As a non-Indigenous settler, her research work is guided by Indigenous partners and Nations, and in full and meaningful partnership and collaboration.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Experience working with and for First Nations across Canada through policy-related roles and technical advisory roles on water, wastewater and other infrastructure
- Holds a Canada Research Chair, in Integrated Knowledge, Engineering & Sustainable Communities which is focused on working with and for First Nations across Canada on sustainable infrastructure
- Actively involved and engaged in First Nations water and infrastructure issues across Canada, including policy and strategic advice
- Breadth of knowledge on First Nation infrastructure and related issues through work experience, volunteering, and research; extensive publications
- Civil and environmental engineer, committed to enhancing community self-determination and with experience advancing First Nations-led solutions
- Strong communication and knowledge translation skills, including translating technology into policy, and articulating how engineering impacts society
- Experience as a Board Member of a First Nation organization



Chris Buckell

Mr. Buckell has gained valuable and direct experience in community operations and maintenance of water treatment and waste management over the course of his career, including experience working with Water Advisory groups. He has also developed strong management skills in relation to governance, team leadership, and cultural awareness and traditions. Mr. Buckell is a citizen of Michipicoten First Nation.

Mr. Buckell has over 15 years of experience working with Michipicoten First Nation, working for the last 11 years as the Public Works Administrator and previously as its Water Treatment Plant Operator. In his current role he oversees 5 staff and is responsible for waste management, security, the environment, asset management, infrastructure, operations and maintenance, housing, and emergency preparedness. He is a Level 2 Water Treatment Operator and has maintained mandatory training and courses for his Water Plant Operator License. Previously, Mr. Buckell worked for Weyerhaeuser Company (formerly MacMillian Bloedel) and the Ministry of Natural Resources in various resource management capacities. Over the course of his career, he has developed a strong working knowledge of water and wastewater issues and challenges, and has developed strong problem-solving skills.

Mr. Buckell has developed a strong understanding of board governance. He currently serves as Chair of the Board for Ontario Provincial Police - North East Superior Region and also sits on various Michipicoten First Nation committees. Mr. Buckell is a Current Board Member of OFNTSC and a Past Board Member of the Children's Aid Society of Algoma.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Experience working with First Nation communities and members, and political leadership in the region representing Michipicoten First Nation
- Experience overseeing community operations and maintenance of water treatment and waste management and experience with Water Advisory groups
- Has been involved with the Union of Ontario Indians in regard to water-related projects in Manitoulin, Thunder Bay, and other Nations
- Experience with First Nations infrastructure projects and with overseeing contractors and developing RFP's, contracts, and agreements
- Strong understanding and knowledge of culture and traditions with First Nations in his region
- Good understanding and experience with collecting relevant data and the protocols
- Good knowledge of board governance



Erin Corston

Ms. Corston is a passionate professional with a proven track record in program planning and management, community-based research and policy analysis, health and social services planning, and community engagement. Over the course her career, she has held several senior management positions in the not-for-profit environment, as well as at executive levels working directly with Boards of Directors. She possesses a deep understanding and personal connection to the complex array of systemic issues that perpetuate health and socio-economic disparities for Indigenous peoples and has dedicated her career to advancing community-driven solutions that create long lasting, sustainable change. Ms. Corston is a member of Chapeau Cree First Nation.

Born and raised in Treaty 9 Territory, Erin Corston is a member the Chapeau Cree First Nation and an elected Treaty Land Entitlement Trustee with the community. Following more than a decade in the public service, Erin shifted her professional career to Indigenous issues, focusing on key determinants of health such as housing, water, infrastructure, and environment. Her current work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre is focused on advancing data sovereignty, primarily through the implementation of a national First Nations Data Governance Strategy. She believes strongly in First Nations' ability to harness the power of their data to create sustainable change at the local level, where it matters most. She has been Board Member with OFNTSC since 2021.

Prior to her current roles, she held Executive Director positions with various organizations, including the National Association of Friendship Centres and the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association. This work has allowed her to develop a strong understanding of program and policy development, program management, administrative and human resource management, and superior knowledge of federal and provincial negotiation, contribution, and reporting processes. Ms. Corston began her career as an Environmental Health Officer with Health Canada, responsible for monitoring drinking water quality, and water and wastewater sanitation among other things, and then worked in various health related capacities. She has conducted extensive research and published numerous papers and articles related to health and the environment.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Extensive experience with not-for-profit First Nations organizations, including those in transition and reorganizing
- Knowledge and experience related to infrastructure maintenance and asset management, including water and wastewater issues and challenges
- Strong knowledge of governance and experience developing board governance manuals for various provincial and national not for profit organizations
- Strong understanding of data, protocols, and legislation on data collection and storage, information management, and the applications of technology as it relates to data
- Strong proposal writing, managing contribution agreements, and reporting on them with experience negotiating numerous funding agreements
- Demonstrates a strong understanding of human resources processes and best practices
- Developed strong network nationally with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and leaders combined with a sound understanding of traditions, cultures, and protocols
- Good abilities to assess risks and develop and implement risk management processes and systems



Cheryl Fort

Cheryl Fort, Anishinaabe kwe from Ogoki River area, Embametoong First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation part of Treaty 9. Cheryl is in her second term as Mayor of the Township of Hornepayne and has always called Northern Ontario home. Cheryl studied at the University of Windsor and Athabasca University in commerce while focussing on communication. Cheryl has for the past 18 years worked for Canadian National Railway, she is a Locomotive Engineer. Cheryl is the mother of three grown children. Cheryl is an avid volunteer with 27 years experience by serving as a town councillor, school board trustee, library board chair, hospital board member and Royal Canadian Legion Youth Education Chair. Cheryl is the second female Indigenous Mayor to be elected in Ontario. While working as both Mayor and Locomotive Engineer, she also serves as the 2nd Vice President for the Ontario Good Roads Association (Good Roads), Vice-President of the Algoma District Municipal Association, Chair of the Hornepayne Housing Corporation and Vice-Chair of the Algoma District Services Administration Board. Cheryl is a servant-leader and a strong advocate for change. Cheryl has worked closely with Ontario Clean Water Agency and has successfully participated in all Clean Water Training required in her role as Mayor. Cheryl would like to see prosperous and thriving communities and people across Ontario but especially in Northern Ontario.



Aaron Genreux

Mr. Genreux has over 20 years of experience working as a Professional and Project Engineer with First Nations communities and organizations. He has served as President of the OFNTSC since 2021 and has been a Board Member for 13 years. Over his career, Mr. Genreux has developed a strong knowledge and expertise in relation to planning and implementing First Nations capital projects and infrastructure programs, as well as to gain a sound understanding of inspection services and technical training. Mr. Genreux is a citizen of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory.

As Director of Indigenous Projects at Colliers Project Leaders, Mr. Genreux is leading owner representation for First Nation clients in Central Canada. Prior to joining Colliers, he provided Engineering and Technical advisory services for the Ogemawahj Tribal Council. He also worked extensively on matters involving First Nation drinking water advisories which included advancing the Anishinabek Nation Regional Assessment and contributions to water reports by the Human Rights Watch, David Suzuki Foundation, and several academic institutions across Canada. Aaron's passion includes addressing the Operation and Maintenance funding gap and supporting solutions addressing this issue.

Mr. Genreux's extensive technical knowledge and experience has allowed him to develop a comprehensive understanding of First Nations infrastructure challenges. It has also allowed him to develop relevant skills and expertise with water and wastewater. He led the program development of the OTC Water and Wastewater Hub, has evaluated water systems, developed solid waste transfer stations, conducted groundwater evaluations, led water treatment plant expansions and upgrades, and has overseen OTC annual water and wastewater inspection program.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Extensive project management skills in the areas of capital projects and construction management
- Strong experience overseeing strategic First Nations projects and asset management including leading the OTC Asset Management Awareness and Training Program
- Expertise in relation to water and wastewater, including project management, program development, evaluation, and inspection services
- Led numerous professional procurement services for the selection of professional services related to engineering, architecture, geotechnical, geomatics, hydrogeologists, and environmental
- Experience developing policies, guidelines, terms of reference, RFQ, and numerous technical reports
- Significant experience drafting and reviewing contracts, project estimates, tenders, insurance documents and ensuring compliance for Health & Safety, codes, standards, and regulations
- Good experience working with municipal, provincial, and federal agencies and departments
- Strong experience developing funding proposals, negotiating and reporting on project funding



William (Bill) Hutchison

Mr. Hutchison is from Dryden, Ontario and has extensive experience in First Nations infrastructure, water, wastewater and technical services. He has dedicated his career to working in environments that promote and support communities becoming progressive and healthy through technical assistance and support.

Mr. Hutchison is a Civil Engineer, having graduated from the Northern College, South Timmons Campus. Prior to becoming an engineer, he held senior roles in a local heavy equipment construction company, and implemented the mechanical, operational, engineering and accounting sides of the business.

For many years, he worked for Keewatinook Okimakanak (Northern Chiefs Council) Public Works, where he started as Project Technologist, became Assistant Manager and finally as Manager of the department. Keewatinook Okimakanak Public Works department provides technical advice on the infrastructure of its six northern remote access Communities.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Extensive experience working with First Nations communities and political leadership representing Shibogama First Nations Council, Sioux Lookout/Western Unaffiliated First Nations, and currently the Independent First Nations Alliance
- Strong experience over 10 years managing the technical services for five First Nations communities
- Strong skills and experience overseeing strategic First Nations capital projects and initiatives including housing, infrastructure management, construction, maintenance, and asset management
- Knowledge and understanding of environmental issues in relation to OFNTSC
- Good experience and understanding of the process with developing funding proposals and negotiating with the federal, provincial and municipal government agencies and departments



Michael S. Jacobs

Michael Jacobs is an experienced entrepreneur and has over 25 years experience as an advisory consultant to First Nations leaders and technical practitioners. Mr. Jacobs is a member of the Curve Lake First Nation, and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McMaster University. Throughout his career, Mr. Jacobs has raised over \$25 Million in funding for First Nation-based development projects and trained hundreds of First Nation members, leaders and organizations in all facets of operations including strategic planning, business planning and day to day operational strategies.

Mr. Jacobs is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS) Inc. CIPS is an advisory consultancy specializing in projects that impact First Nations relationship with the land and contemporary Canada. Prior to this work, Mr. Jacobs held other business leadership roles in the First Nation energy, health and economic development sectors. In these roles and at the federal government of Canada Mr. Jacobs has a solid understanding of how projects on First Nations are completed from conception through financing, construction, commissioning and decommissioning.

Michael has extensive Board experience and is currently the Co-Chair of the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business, the Deputy Chair of Green Communities Canada and a member of the Implementation Committee for the Canadian Sustainability Standards Board. Mr. Jacobs has also sat on multiple corporate Board including being the President of an Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI). Michael also held committee roles at Curve Lake on the Finance Committee and the Gaming Revenue Committee.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Extensive experience and knowledge in governance and oversight of First Nation organizations
- Extensive knowledge of the federal government as a funder of First Nations and First Nation organizations
- Strong experience in financing for large First Nations projects related to lands, environment and infrastructure
- Strong experience developing funding proposals, negotiating and reporting on project funding
- Expertise in relation to evaluation, strategic review and environmental and lands management, gained as an advisor to First Nations
- Led numerous development and procurement processes with and for First Nations and First Nations organizations
- Strong experience working with municipal, provincial, and federal agencies and departments



Wendy Landry

Ms. Landry is an experienced professional with a broad range of interests and skills. With over 35 years of experience working for profit and not-for-profit organizations, as well as performing municipal services, she has developed excellent organizational, communication and interpersonal skills. Ms. Landry is a member of Red Rock Indian Band.

Ms. Landry is Vice President Indigenous Leadership, Strategies, Partnerships at Confederation College. She is also Mayor of the Municipality of Shuniah, a position she has held since 2014. In her previous role as Senior Advisor Indigenous Initiatives and Indigenous Engagement for Enbridge Gas, she developed, maintained, and managed relationships with First Nations and Metis Communities, as well as local governments. Ms. Landry has also provided this training to other organizations (e.g. federal government departments, school boards and other professional organizations, corporations and municipalities and financial institutions) as an independent public educator.

Ms. Landry has extensive experience in Board governance and leadership, as well as being certified in Governance Training. She is currently the President of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and has served in various Board capacities for the Common Voice Northwest, Confederation Board of Governors, Thunder Bay District Municipal Association, and Thunder Bay Council of Métis Nations of Ontario. She has also served as Chairperson for the City of Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council and as Co-Chair of the City of Thunder Bay Anti-Racism Committee.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Strong regulatory and compliance oversight experience, including skills overseeing roads, highways, and gas in the municipality
- Developed relationships with other municipalities in Ontario as well as the private sector
- Strong network with First Nations communities and political leaders in Northwestern Ontario
- Strong working knowledge of First Nations political leadership processes
- Knowledge of governance training with a certification in Board Governance; has chaired many boards and committees
- Good experience and skills with job and apprenticeship training



Roger Rozon

Mr. Rozon is a dedicated professional with extensive experience in the industrial and housing industries. Born and raised in northern Ontario, he is uniquely familiar with the social problems and challenges facing local First Nations communities and is passionate about addressing them through the knowledge and experience he has gained, a strong work ethic, and an inherent desire to build trust and provide guidance where needed. Mr. Rozon is a citizen of the Red Rock Indian Band.

Mr. Rozon has over 30 years of work experience including technical services and management, environmental and community liaising, water treatment plant maintenance and quality control. He is an Environmental Technologist and a Mechanical Engineering Technical. For the past 13 years, Mr. Rozon has been the Technical Service Manager/Advisor for the Nokiwin Tribal Council, providing advisory services to five First Nations in Northwestern Ontario. He has been involved in multiple housing construction projects, environmental monitoring and site remediation, maintenance management planning and staff oversight. He has been involved in the maintenance of a large provincial housing portfolio and is a member of the planning committee for the First Nations Housing Conference. Mr. Rozon has also worked and advised on the Safe Water Drinking Act.

Mr. Rozon is familiar with Board operations, having served on the OFTNSC Board for 13 years. He has provided valuable input over his time on the Board as well as demonstrating passion and commitment to its objectives.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Extensive experience with First Nations consultation and working with First Nations communities and staff
- Strong knowledge and experience with water and waste water operations and maintenance at the community level
- Strong skills and experience in the environmental area working in environmental monitoring, site remediation, water, soil, air and mold testing, and thoroughly understands the relevant codes, by-laws, and regulatory requirements
- Strong skills and experience overseeing strategic First Nations capital projects and initiatives including construction, maintenance, and asset management for water and wastewater plants, new schools, major housing projects
- Good skills and experience developing funding proposals for many federal government departments and agencies, and has established relationships with the City of Thunder Bay and surrounding municipalities
- Strong experience at reporting to funders



Paul Schisler

Paul Schisler is both an honours graduate of Engineering and Business Administration and has been a licensed Professional Engineer in Ontario since 1991. He has over 30 years of project management experience in the civil/environmental fields obtained by working on all types of infrastructure projects. Paul has managed departments within several consulting engineering firms and was responsible for all staff office/field activities. His lengthy career has allowed him to gather extensive project management and staff managerial experience along with a vast amount of technical knowledge.

Paul was the Manager of Technical Services for the Southern First Nations Secretariat (SFNS) Tribal Council from 2012 to 2021 which services six (6) First Nations in Southwestern Ontario. He coordinated and assisted engineering consultants/contractors with the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of all the First Nation's infrastructure. Paul was responsible for SFNS staff supervision/recruitment to complete engineering and inspection services for all types of infrastructure projects. He provided technical training and assisted with the technical capacity building of the First Nations with various government agencies and associations. Paul is very well versed about First Nation's projects and initiatives and is very experienced working with First Nation's staff and communities. Paul has served on the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) Board of Directors for twelve (12) years including serving on various Board Committees.

Paul is currently working on a contract basis with several large national and international civil/environmental engineering consulting firms and general contractors to complete all types of infrastructure projects in the Ontario region marketplace. He is responsible for full report/document and design drawing review of work prepared by other engineers and technicians to ensure that each firm's quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) standards and objectives are achieved. Paul also provides expert technical advice in legal matters to the various firms.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Extensive experience overseeing private/public sector and First Nations civil and environmental capital projects including water/wastewater plants, roads, community buildings, housing and other infrastructure as well as managing staff to complete projects on budget and on schedule.
- Very experienced in preparing funding proposals and has developed a strong network with federal, provincial and municipal government departments and other agencies.
- Extensive experience working with private/public sector proponents and First Nation's communities and working with political leaders.
- Strong financial skills and budgeting experience achieved as a result of his honours degree in Business Administration.
- Very strong skills and experience preparing and overseeing contracts, developing and applying policies, codes, regulations and standards for technical services.
- Experienced in providing expert technical advice in legal matters to various proponents.

Exceptional organizational and communication skills including computer skills.



Elaine Stewart

MS. Stewart is a proven leader who is passionate about contributing to the growth and financial success of First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations, including the opportunity to help them build their administrative and financial capacities. She is a qualified and dedicated accounting professional who holds both her Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) designations. Ms. Comegan is a settler and ally with close to 20 years of financial leadership experience in First Nation Governments, including Biigtigong Dbenjgan, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, and Pic Moberg First Nation.

Ms. Stewart has over 40 years of financial management and experience with First Nation communities and private sector corporations. In her current role as Director of Finance Biigtigong Dbenjgan, she provides operational supervision, leadership and direction in the areas of finance, major infrastructure projects, and operations. Her work experience has exposed her to the opportunities and challenges faced by First Nations communities in relation to health, social services, infrastructure, and operations and maintenance, including water and wastewater operations.

Ms. Stewart has worked directly with Chief and Council and Boards of Directors over the course of her career. Her governance work in the area of education self-determination, has allowed her to develop a strong working knowledge of governance and roles and responsibilities.

Relevant Skills and Experience:

- Strong accounting and financial skills as a designated accountant with over 13 years of management and leadership experience
- Strong skills and experience developing and implementing internal controls, policies, and procedures at the First Nations community level
- Experience and expertise overseeing human resources, administration and accounting and technology in First Nations in Ontario
- Strong working knowledge of governance and operations having served on various Boards in a variety of capacities
- Extensive experience liaising and working with both federal and provincial officials and managing funding arrangements
- Strong skills and experience liaising with First Nations communities, staff, and Chiefs and Councils
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

