



"Community First"



Time for Change - David Neegan for Grand Chief

I would like to introduce myself, my name is David Neegan from Constance Lake First Nation. The focus of my campaign is best summed up in two words, "Community First". By focusing on the community, we can address issues that are important to all of us. If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at (807) 737-4603 or (807) 738-1588. I look forward to hearing from you. You can also visit my website at www.neegan.net

In Unity and Friendship,

David Neegan



www.neegan.net

Time to Invest - "By investing in the communities today, we are planning for tomorrow"

Time for Change - David Neegan for Grand Chief

What has changed for First Nations within Nishnawbe-Aski Nation for the past 25 years? The unemployment rate and social issues have been the consistent. While a few communities have increased their standard of living, most communities still lag behind mainstream Canada. Lack of financial resources for housing, education and infrastructure are still outstanding issues. Little momentum has been made with comprehensive and specific land claims. The demographics has shifted to a much younger booming population, yet communities have little to offer in terms of economic opportunities and development. Lastly, we as a people are no closer to self-government. The course of action for the federal and provincial governments is to have a "municipal" style government.

The one sector that has changed and grown is the off-reserve service sector of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. Organizations such as Nishnawbe-Aski Nation's financial resources have grown immensely. The additional revenue from the off-reserve service sector has been invested in towns and cities across Northern Ontario. The original mandate of NAN was to advocate for First Nations. The focus has shifted to the industry that it has created. NAN has sponsored the creation of organizations that take funding directly from the communities. Programs, such as the band administration program which trains administrators to be fiscally responsible, have disappeared.

Community First - Moving NAN

If elected Grand Chief, I will place the focus on the needs of the communities first. Every dollar spent will have to show how it benefits the people of NAN. Furthermore, to better service the needs of the NAN communities, I will ask the Chiefs to support a resolution that will move NAN to a NAN First Nation. A selection process will be created to locate a potential location. Each interested community will be asked to submit a proposal. Terms will be defined by the people of NAN.

We as a people of NAN are smart, capable people who survived years of hardships. Now is the time to take control of our destiny.

Position - David Neegan for Grand Chief

Community First

We live in a society where the governments legislates laws and implements how they are to be carried out, it provides mandates for the legal system and decides on policy thus controlling the funding. When NAN negotiates with the government on issues such as land claims, economic development, resource sharing, infrastructure and health; they have little success in attaining our needs or protecting our interest. The NAN Executive has little leverage with the government. NAN can gain that leverage by focusing on the community. People change governments, not a few individuals at a regional level. **Community First** is about mobilizing First Nations to begin advocating and integrating what community issues are promoting or hindering nation building within our First Nations and naming what issues we want to jointly address and develop as one Aboriginal Nation. We need to sit together as leaders to set the direction rather than wait for the government to set the direction with the wave of the financial wand. **Community First** is working from the communities and reaching outward.

Education / Youth

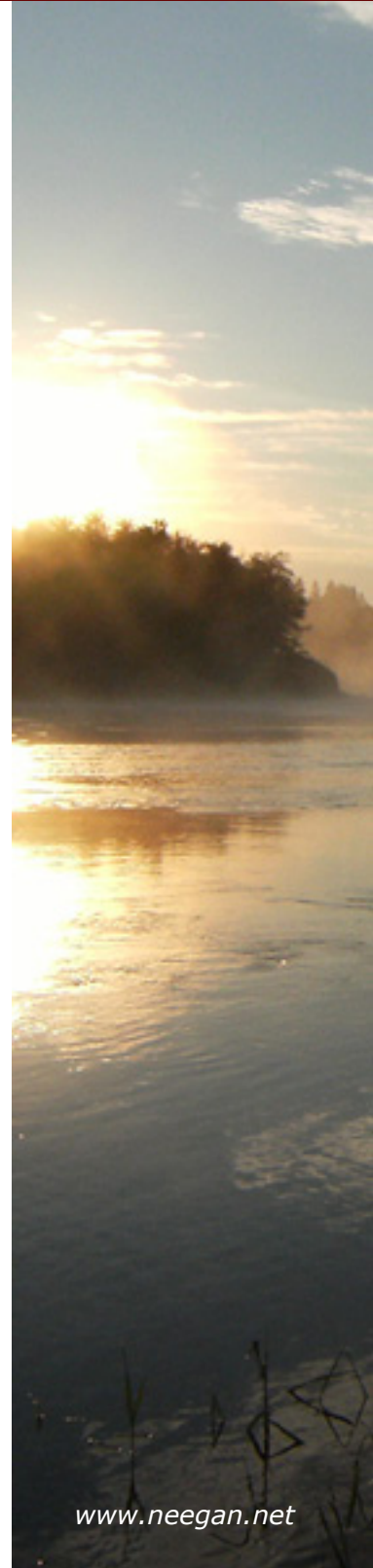
Our current education system is a disservice to all Aboriginal people. Not only does it fail to graduate our young people at rates that would impact communities positively, but also, it fails us in ways that we cannot begin to measure. We are forever educating our youth in a poorly underfunded system that is not comparable to the Canadian education system. It is important that we close the gap in funding shortfalls. It is equally important that we develop Aboriginal based curriculum. We have a proud and vast history that is not taught in our schools to our children. By centering our attention on teaching our children the importance of our shared history, we will raise the self-esteem of all youth, and by combining this with community youth programs, we can strengthen their spirits and culture.

Self-Government

As we continue to negotiate for self-government, the federal and provincial governments are imposing a "municipal" style government with no additional revenue for First Nations. This is not "self-government". The people of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation must control their own destiny by writing our own system of governance. NAN must work with the communities to make true self-government a reality. This is in no way a radical vision, this is the model developed by our NAN Elders years ago. We live in communities where Canadian and Federal Law is often implemented if the funding can afforded it otherwise we get ignored and left to our own devices. We have an opportunity to begin the work that our communities so desperately need.

Quality Assurance

Implement Quality Assurance (ISO compatible) to ensure the best service is delivered to the Chiefs and the communities. Quality Assurance creates a framework that clearly defines the role of NAN, list of procedures and verification the task is complete thus providing the people of NAN the assurance that their issues are being met in a well-defined time frame.





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The Next 100 Years - David Neegan for Grand Chief

Together we must lay down the foundation for the future generations. We can succeed in defending the rights of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with long-term significance.

Over the next few decades, our population will grow significantly larger that will affect our society and our economy in many ways. In particular, the coming demographic transition will create severe fiscal challenges, as the cost of running of our programs rises sharply. I hope to have persuaded the membership of NAN the implications of staying the course. From a broader perspective, the question is how do we prepare between our generation and the generations that will follow us. A failure on our part to prepare will have substantial adverse effects on our children and grandchildren. We need to focus on the communities of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

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