



Manitoba Keewatinowí Okimakanak Inc.

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MEMO

To: MKO Chiefs and Councillors
From: Stephanie Connors, Chief Electoral Officer
Date: August 1, 2024
Subject: **MKO Grand Chief Candidates Contact Information**

Official candidates for the MKO Grand Chief election updated contact information:

CHRIS BAKER, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

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GARRISON SETTEE, Pimicikamak Cree Nation

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Please find attached the Candidates Biography for your information.

The MKO Grand Chief Election will be held on the Opaskwayak Cree Nation August 28, 2024 during the MKO Annual General Assembly being held on August 27-29, 2024. All MKO Member First Nation Chiefs and Councillors will be eligible to vote in this election. There shall be no proxies.

Ekosi,

Stephanie Connors

MKO Chief Electoral Officer

Biography: Grand Chief Garrison Settee

Garrison Settee is from the **Pimicikamak Cree Nation**. He is Ininiw and was born and raised in a Cree-speaking home. He was raised in a home with strong values and work ethics, where his parents instilled strong spiritual values that keep him grounded to this day.

He attended Frontier Collegiate in Cranberry Portage and R.D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Education degree from Brandon University.

Upon graduating from University, Garrison Settee went on to teach in the Frontier Collegiate, Mosakahiken Frontier School and returned home to teach in Cross Lake.

Garrison Settee taught First Nation Studies and First Nation Law at the grade 12 level for many years. He introduced his students to the critical issues pertaining to Indigenous rights and treaties. Through his experiences as an educator, both students and Elders encouraged Mr. Settee to allow his name to stand for leadership at the community level.

Answering the call of his students and Elders, Garrison was first elected as Councillor and then nominated and elected as Chief of Pimicikamak. He served as Chief from 2008-2013.

During tenure on Chief and Council of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation, Mr. Settee was involved with a wide range of Councils and committees, including the Executive Council of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO); the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education; school administrator; and a member of the Peace Keeper Patrol-Gang Violence Strategy.

A gifted orator, Grand Chief Settee is a strong advocate for the North. He was elected as Grand Chief of MKO in August 2018. He was re-elected for a second term in August 2021.

He is a strong advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people; children and families impacted by the child welfare

system; economic development; and education for First Nations youth. Grand Chief considers it an honour to serve Northern First Nations.

Several notable highlights include:

- Represented MKO at UN meetings in Geneva, Switzerland and exposed Canada's treatment of Indigenous people.
- Represented MKO in lobbying efforts for the implementation of Jordan's Principle, and after four days Anita Neville, former MP, brought the issue of Jordan's Principle to Parliament, and this was the first time it was mentioned in the House.
- As Chief, Garrison was principal proponent to introduce a resolution to demand an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls at the Assembly of First Nations Assembly. He apologized to the women that not enough was done by the chiefs to pursue the issue of MMIWG.
- Lead discussions with the Manitoba Government to create a Youth Healing Lodge for MKO Nations to have a venue to divert youth from the mainstream justice incarceration process to a wholistic healing model.
- Ensured MKO First Nations who were abandoned by the RCMP during the height of COVID-19 had a table with the Federal and Provincial governments to have First Nations By-Laws were acted upon by law enforcement officials in Manitoba.

In his spare time, the Grand Chief enjoys reading non-fiction history books and biographies. He enjoys playing music, spending time with students and youth in the classroom, visiting elders to gain their historical knowledge and is learning to speak Anishinaabemowin.



Chris G. Baker

for

MKO Grand Chief

Tansi, my name is Christopher G. Baker. I am running for Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak Inc. ***to help develop a political will to establish a responsible government in the north, that gives all Indigenous people the authority and autonomy to be self-determining.***

As Chief, I have proven relationship building with Governments and the ability to work in a three (3) party system with First Nations, the Province and the Federal Government as shown by the creation of OPCN.

I am a principled negotiator who does not minimize First Nations rights in order to secure a "deal". Success is not measured through the press or pictures. It is the state of the people which we serve. I have shown this at OPCN and will show it at MKO.

As MKO Grand Chief, I will be accountable to live and work by our shared values. I will strive to always demonstrate flexibility, sensitivity and practice respect with all First Nations citizens. Together we will encourage commitment to learning, sharing traditional knowledge and experience that will guide problem-solving and lead to quality improvement for ALL First Nations.

I have over twenty (20) years of experience working with Indigenous people and communities with strong leadership and negotiation skills, including accountability and transparency.

I grew up in South Indian Lake and left my community in 1989 to attend University. In 1990, under the United Church of Canada, I worked for a year as an advocate and liaison for Indigenous People living in the north. In 1991, I returned to my community and began working as the Social Assistance Administrator. In 2000, I was elected by the community as "Head Man" to represent the band members and negotiate our own reserve, separate from the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. I had the honor of serving my people and community as "Head Man" and Chief for 14 years.

In 2005, after 5 years of negotiations with Canada, the Province of Manitoba, the Municipal Government and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation; O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation was officially recognized and became the 63rd First Nation in Manitoba. In 2006, I was elected as the first Chief for our community. In 2014, I was re-elected as Chief.

In 2018, my career shifted to the Indigenous Child Welfare System. From 2018 to 2021, I became the Lead Negotiator for MKO and the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority to assist communities in establishing their own Child Welfare Laws. From 2021 to present, I have been the Policy Analyst/Advisor for the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority, and the Administrator for the Island Lake First Nations Child and Family Services.

The following are a few of my professional accomplishments during my career:

Professional Accomplishments:

- OPCN Governance Building-1.2 million
- Housing-33 Units
- Emergency Housing Repairs-60 units
- Licensed Daycare-\$750 000
- President, South Bay Construction
- President, South Indian Lake Rock Crushing Company
- Employment Opportunities & Training
- Financial Capital Planning-20 Year Plan
- Community Upgrading Financial Management Agreement – 29.2 million
- Negotiated with the Province of Manitoba, MKO and the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority to re-instate the Board of Directors for the Northern Authority.

Negotiations:

- Recognition of the O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
- Municipal Development and Service Agreement
- OPCN Community Upgrading Agreement
- Frontier School Division/OPCN Tuition Agreement
- Funding Agreement between Canada (INAC) and OPCN
- OPCN Land Transfer Agreement
- Health Canada/OPCN Memorandum of Understanding
- OPCN Transition Agreement
- OPCN/Canada Release
- OPCN/Canada Apology Letter
- Full Funding from INAC/First Nation Program Funding
- Health Complex / Health Programs
- Resource Management Area Agreement

Project Management:

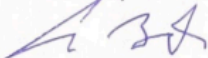
- Membership Code
- Transitional Election Code and Secondment of Councilors
- Election Code
- OPCN Administrative Structure Policies
- Housing and Land Use Policies
- Land Transfer Plan
- Third Party Interest Plan
- Community Development Plan
- Treaty Land Entitlement and TLE Trust Agreement
- Future Hydro Development Agreement

I am committed to working hard towards the betterment of our People and Communities.

I am a dedicated family man with a wife of 23 years and together we cherish 6 children. We have grown up and lived the grassroots lifestyle. Together we value our history, our language and our culture. My wife and I live a healthy traditional life and together we look forward to a healthy future for our children.

**"CHANGING THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH
SELF-DETERMINATION"**

Ekosgini, Masi-Cho



Chris. G. Baker

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