

Aanii! I, Jacques LeBlanc Jr., am asking for your consideration to serve as Secretary for the Executive Council. I love Bay Mills and with your support, I will work to protect and develop our beautiful home, Gnoozhekaaning.



I am the son of Jacques & Gloria LeBlanc, grandson of Albert "Big Abe" & Amelia LeBlanc, Arnold & Geraldine Parish, and Maurice LeBlanc. My wife Candice and I are the proud parents of 4 beautiful children. I am a 3rd generation fisherman, US Army Veteran, and a volunteer coach. I currently work for BMIC as the Tribal Action Plan Director and moonlight as a Commercial Fisherman. I actively serve on the Bay Mills Conservation Committee, Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills Advisory Council, the Healing to Wellness Court Advisory Committee, and Tribal Advisory Board. I am also a recovering drug addict and alcoholic with 17+ years of sobriety. As a younger man I heard a quote that continues to inspire me, "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - Ghandi.

As your Secretary, I would take on the roll as originally intended. I would create a platform to share and communicate vested information. Transparency and accountability are duties of those bestowed to serve and I would take that seriously with current agendas, minutes, and happenings of the Executive Council.

As your Secretary, I would insist that we seek economic diversification. As our community grows, so does the need for support and services. We need to think outside the box and develop new resources to further assist with these needs as well as ways to grow our current businesses.

Tribal rights, treaties, compacts, and agreements are always being tested and scrutinized. As your Secretary, I will always work to ensure that the benefit of our TRIBE as a whole is the forefront of any and all negotiations. The 2020 Consent Decree negotiations have just begun, potentially changing the face of Treaty Fishing as we know it. As a lifelong fisherman, I have a deep personal interest in protecting our rights, waters, and resources. I want to sit at those tables and negotiations and be the voice of our past, current, and future fisherman.

I am a huge advocate for youth and would encourage Council to prioritize child and youth services across the board. I can't think of a better investment for all of our futures than by supporting, teaching, and guiding our future generations to be the best versions of themselves.

As Anishnaabe, we thrive when we connect with our identity. We were given medicines, ceremonies, and teachings on how to live a good life "MinoBimaadzawin". Cultural growth and support is vital to our people and has proven to be effective in mitigating Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness. On Council I would work to ensure that we build on our cultural competency and traditional values to better equip our members.

If given the honor, I promise to always work for the best interest of Bay Mills. Miigwetch!