



PERSONAL APPEAL

I am deeply honoured and humbled to be seeking the role of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

My decision to run for National Chief was influenced by my interaction with Elders, knowledge keepers, my deep belief in ceremony and deep desire to help our Peoples.

Our esteemed Elders consistently remind us that we are the first order of government on these lands. It is time for us to reclaim our true place on these lands. While the journey ahead cannot be completed overnight, it is a path we must embark on together.

As a man of ceremony dedicated to my community, I feel compelled to uphold the vision set forth by our ancestors. That vision was the guiding light during my tenure as Chief for almost two decades at Batchewana. I will embrace a holistic inclusive approach intent on facilitating regional discussions and dialogues, leading advocacy initiatives and campaigns, conducting legal and policy analyses, and fostering relationships among First Nations, Governments and businesses.

In my conversations with Chiefs across the country I recognize the significance of individual jurisdictions and sovereignty. We need to make markable, measurable improvements by getting input from the across the country, all the 600-plus chiefs need to have input.

Under my leadership we will foster openness and provide a platform for each jurisdiction to express their distinct needs.

If we keep doing the same thing that we've been doing forever, we're going to get the same result. We need new perspectives, new ideas, new plans and push the envelope.

For this reason, there is no "one size fits all solution. I will work with you collaboratively to establish processes that ensure every one of your voices is heard, acknowledging the diverse governance expectations from Coast-to-Coast-to-Coast.

The creation of the Assembly of First Nations was a significant milestone designed to be a voice and advocate for our collective interests. With my experience and your continued guidance, input, and the revitalization of the AFN's focus and mandate, I firmly believe we can and will reclaim our rightful place in Canada.

As your National Chief, I am deeply committed to charting a course that will reinvigorate these facets of Nationhood within our communities, ensuring they become pillars of strength once again.

With the right ingredients in place, we can achieve the progress we aspire to see. I want to be the catalyst for that change, working hand in hand collaboratively with you and for you.

Miigwetch
Dean Sayers

ELECT
**DEAN
SAYERS**



VISION

We are the original inhabitants of these lands. Throughout our history, we have preserved, those qualities that define us as Nations.

Collectively, we must unite protect our: Land, Laws, People, Languages and unique way of Life.

Each of our Nations possesses distinct frameworks, governing procedures, and unique aspirations aimed at fostering prosperity for future generations.

Under my leadership I will assertively advocate we collectively control our jurisdictions and not succumb to whatever the governments are attempting to promote.

In my role as your National Chief, I am committed to adopting a robust, inclusive leadership style with the AFN National Executive. My goal is to build consensus, foster unity, and rekindle The Assembly of First Nations.

Recognizing the significance of individual jurisdictions and sovereignty, I intend to foster openness and provide a platform for each jurisdiction to express their distinct needs.

For this reason, there is no “one size fits all solution.” I will work with you collaboratively to establish processes that ensure every one of your voices is heard, acknowledging the diverse governance expectations from Coast-to-Coast-to-Coast.

In our negotiations, we will take the lead and set the agenda rather than following the directives of the federal government. Our negotiations with the crown will genuinely reflect the expectations of all First Nations.

WHY DEAN SAYERS

Dean brings a wealth of experience and integrity as a community-oriented Chief. For nearly 20-years Sayers served as Batchewana First Nation Chief. He played a key role as one of the lead negotiators for the historic \$10-Billion Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement.

Dean is driven by a deep respect for his elders, knowledge keepers, and steadfast belief in the importance of ceremony.

He is level-headed, laser focused, listens, and builds consensus.

Dean will sit alongside each region at the table, actively supporting them in achieving their objectives. He will encourage communities to autonomously decide and negotiate what is best for their unique needs and interests.

He will focus on encouraging First Nations leadership nationwide to assert ownership over jurisdictional areas not surrendering any treaties or agreements where applicable. He will build consensus with the AFN's National Executive, Tribal Council's and Regional Chiefs and subsequently establish productive relationships with all levels of government.

In his words “As your National Chief, I am deeply committed to charting a course that will reinvigorate these facets of Nationhood within our communities, ensuring they become pillars of strength setting the stage for our youth for generations to come.”



PRESERVE NATIONHOOD:

- advance and preserve nationhood in communities across the country and beyond.
- Guarantee all levels of government recognize & honor our inherent jurisdiction and treaty rights is a priority.
- Address and correct flawed federal assumptions of our jurisdictions.
- Make sure governments fulfill their legal obligations to all First Nations across the country.
- Reassert our rightful jurisdictions as the original, & unextinguished governments of our lands.
- Create opportunities for our leaders to have an autonomous voice with Federal Officials, including relevant Ministers and the Prime Minister
- Help communities build their processes and utilize the afn as a lobbying mechanism to help them meet their objectives.
- Our Nations have distinct frameworks, governing procedures, and unique aspirations aimed at fostering prosperity for future generations. It's imperative we collectively unite to "protect" our:
 1. Land
 2. Laws
 3. People
 4. Languages
 5. Unique way of life.

ECONOMY/INFRASTRUCTURE HELP OUR PEOPLE THRIVE:

- **ECONOMIC RENEWAL** - Regain control of our land and resources.
- **HEALTH & WELLNESS** - Reduce health inequities and improve outcomes.
- **EDUCATION** - Ensure every indigenous youth will graduate within a generation.
- **ADDICTION/SUBSTANCEABUSE** - push for culturally based/community-owned services.
- **HOUSING** - Advocate for culturally appropriate long-term housing solutions.
- **CULTURE & LANGUAGE** - preserve and revitalize indigenous culture and language.
- **MENTAL HEALTH** - aggressively advocate for programs to alleviate mental issues.
- **RESOURCE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY** - make it a priority to foster economic reconciliation with respect to procurement activities, leading to more opportunities for Indigenous businesses.
- **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** - I will insist on establishing truth before getting reconciliation.
- **LEGACY** - Dean aspires to leave behind a legacy to set the table for our youth and benefit generations to come.



RESTORE RELEVANCE TO AFN

Dean Sayers firmly believes the AFN has the potential to be a powerful vehicle for realizing the vision of Canada's Original Peoples. Dean will proactively work to avoid division, emphasizing processes that unite First Nations rather than divide.

He emphasizes the creation of the AFN was a platform for advocating on behalf of First Nations people, and his objective is clear: "to ensure that the AFN takes its rightful place as a strong advocate for First Nations in Canada."

- Working closely and constructively with AFN National Executive
- Support AFN National Executive to provide the necessary policy advice, advocacy & political support for First Nations in a way that aligns with their desired direction.
- Support implementation of AFN Resolution 13 Panel Work Plan to advance Charter Renewal priorities.
- Execute AFN mandates, striving to create inclusive and progressive spaces that empower all First Nations of diverse backgrounds. A "one size fits all" approach is not always effective will guide these efforts.
- Work to bring together the AFN Executive to work collaboratively within AFN Mandates and processes and ensure the organization is transparent and accountable to its membership.
- Examine opportunities for broader engagement within AFN processes to facilitate grassroots feedback.

EXPAND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

- Although negotiations are underway across Canada to help right past wrongs, advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. There is a long way to go. Dean will work constructively with the crown to get things done but only through the lens of First Nations not the government.
- Generate new perspectives, new ideas, and new plans. "Moving the needle requires pushing the envelope. If we continue with the same approach we've used for so long, we'll inevitably yield the same results."
- Assertively advocate on behalf of all regions to gain control over their jurisdictions and not succumb to whatever the governments are attempting to promote.
- Continue to remain non-partisan in all approaches working with Federal and Crown Officials
- Create inclusive/progressive spaces that empower all First Nations of diverse backgrounds.

