

Han Mitakuyepi! Winyan Waste emachiyapi.

Hello my relatives! My name is Whitney Ogle, and my Lakota name is Good Woman. I am currently taking my masters of Indigenous language and education at the First Nations University of Canada in Regina. I am seeking your support for a position on council of the Wood Mountain Lakota First Nation.

I bring 20 years of experience working with First Nations in Alberta and Saskatchewan, where I've developed community programs, focused on youth engagement, and promoted language and cultural education programs. I believe these skills make me well-prepared to serve effectively as your councilor.

As councilor, I will apply my experience to benefit our band members in several critical areas:

Engaging Our Youth in Our Community's Future

I feel it is important to actively engage our youth, as they are the future leaders of our Lakota Nation. I will ensure our youth feel proud of their identity and equipped to lead our community forward. By investing in our youth, we invest in a sustainable, thriving future for all our members.

As your councilor, I will work to:

- develop initiatives that connect our young people with their rich Lakota identity
- develop programs that offer educational opportunities, leadership development, and cultural immersion for our youth
- empower our young people to thrive in both worlds – Lakota and modern society

Lakota Language and Culture

I am committed to revitalizing and preserving our Lakota language and identity. I have been trying my best to learn our language from fluent speakers for the last 3 years. By creating opportunities for all generations to learn and practice our language and culture, we will strengthen our connection to our identity as Lakota people.

As your councilor, I will work to:

- develop language programs, camps and resources
- provide access to cultural resources and teachings

Communication and Band Member Engagement

Clear, open, and respectful communication is vital to the health of our Nation. I believe in the power of listening—truly listening—to the voices of all band members, whether they reside on or off reserve. Together, we will build a strong and united community where each voice contributes to our shared vision.

As your councilor, I will work to:

- prioritize open and honest communication
- ensure that everyone is informed – including off-reserve members
- provide opportunities to be involved in the decisions that affect our community – for all on and off-reserve band members

I would be honored to be given the opportunity to serve as your councilor. Please share your thoughts and needs with me; your input is essential as we work together to build a stronger future for our community. I can be reached at 306.640.5090 OR whitneyogle@hotmail.com. Pilamayaye! Thank you!

“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children” – Tatanka Iyotake (Sitting Bull – Lakota)