

## Biography

My name is Jerry Sean Smith. I am a 53 year old widower living on the Magnetawan First Nation with my boys, Derian, Julian and Ashton. My oldest boy Sean lives in Chatham, my daughter Autumn lives here in Magnetawan with Jiibiik, my grandson. I have lived here since 1986.

I was born in 1968 in the town of Parry Sound. My father and mother were both native however due to government policy my mother was forced to enfranchise and surrender her status in 1967. My parents were married in 1967 until 2015.

I grew up in the town Parry Sound. It was a tough time for all people and sometimes living conditions not the best but we managed okay. As a family we stayed together close knit. Many challenges faced me throughout my childhood from racial discrimination to social issues/ addictions.

During my school career it was challenging. I looked Native and lived in town with few other native peoples. I was however a good student which helped, and had some good friends. My public school days were at the Isabella Street School, William Beatty School and PSHS until graduating, OSSGD in 1987.

I began playing hockey at 5 years old and continued playing competitively until I was 19. Hockey was a great teacher for me. Being involved at Rep level hockey since I was 9 until 19 taught me many great qualities and traits I possess today. Things like respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, and many others. During my hockey days I was fortunate to become team captain several times and strived to lead as best I could. Although, not always successful we did succeed really, by becoming a Team. The highlight of my hockey was being selected to be on the Georgian Bay All-star Team in 1985, my first year of Junior hockey.

My Dad was a hard working man whom I remember working his entire life. He taught me many good qualities a father would and has made me a better person today. We spent many hours together playing hockey, baseball, ice fishing, golfing, and many other things. He was probably my worst critic, but my biggest supporter no matter what I did, up until his death in 2015.

My Mom and sister Janice are here in Magnetawan also. They live across the street and we are very close. My sister and Mom worked in the Health Field. My Mom also speaks our language and worked as a NSL Instructor. We spend a good part of each day having coffee and talking. When times are tough they are there for me and have taught me so many good things especially our Culture.

Currently I am a stay at home Dad. I had went back to work after my partner passed but soon realized my boys needed me. Most of the time I am at home doing chores waiting for boys to come in. If I am not home I can be found across the road visiting my Mom and Sister.

For employment, I seek out challenging employment opportunities whenever possible working for First Nation/ organizations or business. I also pursue my log home building passion when needed either carrying out training courses or building.

Over my life I have been very fortunate to have found peoples so willing to share in their knowledge, skills, experience, and friendship to help me through the game of life. Teachers, coaches, friends, and family have all contributed to my success. Thank you very much.

## Condensed CV

Jerry S. Smith

May 2021

- 2019-20:** **Ratification Officer ANMGI, MFN**  
First Nations pursuing advancement of self government. Conduct Ratification vote
- 2016-17:** **Lands Manager, Shawanaga First Nation**  
Establish Lands Program. Initiate Land Use Planning Exercise, Lease Development Review, Establish Lands Committee, Staff Lands office. Develop annual budgets workplans. Preliminary planning SAR program.
- 2013-14:** **Land Code Ratification Officer, MFN**  
First Nation seeking to opt out of Land related sections of the Indian Act. Voter education  
Successful vote achieved
- 2011-12:** **Band Manager, MFN**  
Responsible for all aspects of Band Operations. Implement Results Based Management, Policy Development/ Review, Budgeting/ Planning, HR, Council Advisor, Program/ Service Development & Delivery, Establish financial accountability/ monitoring/ controls  
Successfully secured funds construct new Health Centre and new handicapped transit bus  
Proposals generated \$700,000
- 2011:** **Economic Development Officer, MFN**  
Begin discussions with Laurentian to assist in applying for Species At Risk funding. Application successful.  
TVO Producers dropped by to inquire about any interesting projects we were undertaking. They returned next year and filmed Striking Balance Television documentary
- 2009-10:** **Self Employed Log Home Builder/ Instructor**  
Constructed log homes  
Delivered 10 week log home program First Nation located AB
- 2004-05:** **Ontario Regional Manager, Canadian Executive Services Organization**  
Manage roster of over 3000 volunteers. Work with First Nations identifying needs and generate assignments utilizing Volunteer Advisor expertise. Develop workplans, assemble required human resources, annual budgeting, staff management. Initiated over a 100 projects annually ON Region.
- 2003-04:** **Vice-President, Dabobondung & Associates Inc.**  
Assist the President seeking contracts in area of Election, Appeals, and Investigations. Assist in conducting elections. Our main clients were AANDC and First Nations. Year one produced over \$250,000 in contracts.
- 1999-2003:** **Community Planner, Waabnoong Bemijiwang Association of First Nations**  
Provide Advisory services to First Nations in the area of Community Planning. Successfully secured funds to complete WAN Study. Successfully secured funds to construct WAN \$250,000 value
- 1993-1999:** **Economic Development Officer, MFN**  
Develop Business Plan for Magnetawan Schoolbus Transportation Service. Operations began 1993 and continue today.  
Generate proposal for new Band Office. Successfully secured \$638,000 in funding for construction  
Business Plan developed for MFN Gas Bar & Store. Store open 1996 and is in business today  
Project Manager Water Wastewater Project; Managed construction of 3.2 million dollar water/ wastewater facility. Trained as initial operator.
- 1992:** **Log Home Builder/ Instructor**  
Delivered 20 week long Log Home Training Program. Developed training manual and curriculum.  
Successfully secured \$250,000 for project costs. Project successful
- 1988-89:** **Trades Courses; Carpentry, Log Home Building Training**  
Completed Research Training

**Election Platform**  
**Jerry S. Smith**  
**Candidate for Chief**

This is what I pledge to work towards for my people if elected.

Youth/ Community Recreation: Construction of new ballfield/ soccer field complex. This has been a need for the community since 1993. The Community Rink will be built each winter.

Establish Elders Group, Youth Group, other community bodies as needed.

**Accountability and Transparency:** When I first came home, each month general assemblies were held to keep people informed. Staff would present a brief report and financial information shared with the membership. This has occurred sporadically since the 90's here. If elected the membership will be well informed of the happenings in our community via these monthly meetings, sharing information on projects, soliciting feedback/ support for projects and community issues.

**Community Development:** People support what they create. I have ideas but the real answers lie within our people. We need to become united again as a community and only the people can make this happen. Establish circles, committees, support networks, regular social functions, and begin discussing the issues, and develop a plan of action.

"Along time ago before colonization, when we were starving as a people it was all the people starving, when we flourished we all flourished. " Now we are like them!

**Leadership Development:** Building leaders for tomorrow is an important part the Leadership and Administration has forgotten. Getting our people knowledgeable of the administration and how it functions, before becoming leaders must begin now to build better leaders for tomorrow.

**Develop A Vision for MFN:** We are all over the place in regards to achieving our vision. Leadership has taken the view they know what is good for MFN. Sorry the people know where they want the community to go. We need to meet as a community and begin developing a Vision for the community. Once we have a Vision then a key piece of the puzzle has begun.

**Governance:** We achieved successful vote in area of Governance. If elected I will build these areas with the input, knowledge, skills, and experience of the people. We have many smart people and don't need leadership telling the people anymore what is good for them. Leaders are Servants of the people, they work for us, not against us.

**Economic Development:** I have always believed business development for our people is the best route. There are numerous opportunities currently that could be contracted to businesses. Ie. Cleaning company, snowplow/ grass cutting business, property maintenance for housing, craft shop, fast food, and the list goes on. I will encourage the devolution of staff replacing it with contract opportunities whenever possible. Support will be provided to entrepreneurs as needed to plan and develop their business. I am confident entrepreneurs should engage in the Cannabis Industry. Opportunities exist for dispensary or small craft grow operators. Establish Ec. Dev. Committee then Corporation.

Review existing business operations of MFN. Investigate feasibility.

**Lands:** It was such an honor to attend Community Builders Award in 2013 for Environmental area for our First Nation. We even played a major part in the Striking Balance Georgian Bay Biosphere Video the following year. Then we put a big hole in the ground. I thought being recognized for stewardship was far better than the eyesore there now.

Lands Program Review. Identify deficiencies and develop plan. Formation of Lands committee. Develop Community Cannabis Law. Land Use Planning needs to be completed.

**Housing:** This area belongs to the people. Establish committee. Develop Policies. Review housing program. Committee work to address issues and provide recommendations based on policy to Leadership. Leadership needs to respect the committee.

**Law-making:** Develop Employment Equity Legislation for MFN Band members. A Business Registration law will be developed requiring outside parties/ businesses to apply for Vendors permit/ work permit prior to applying for work within our Borders. Develop Community Residency Law

**Administration:** Conduct organizational review immediately. Determine our current financial situation.

In closing I would like to say this. The success of our community is not dependent on any one individual. We must become a community again and work together to build a better life and future for our people.

I never give up on my family so let's not give up on each other. Our nation has survived much worse.

**Don't let people tell you how to vote.  
Vote for the best people, for the position.  
If we vote for the best candidates, all will be okay for the people!  
Our children deserve a better future!**

**Vote  
Jerry S. Smith for Chief  
Knowledge, Skills & Experience**

**I can be contacted at [rezlogbuilder@gmail.com](mailto:rezlogbuilder@gmail.com) or phone at (705) 203-2584**