

LTBB Election Board Nonimation Application Form - SECTION 3
CANDIDATE STATEMENT (Limit to 1 page)
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)



Aanii, Kushmuncie Ndizhinikaaz, Mukwa Ndoodem, Waganakising Odawa Ndaaw. My name is Benedict Hinmon and I am a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. My grandparents are Eva Keway and Steve Shenoskey Sr, with blood ties to many Waganakising relatives. I currently serve the community as the Interim Director of the Niigaandiwin Education Department where I have worked for the past 3.5 years. Over the past 46 years, I have had the honor of serving Indian Nations and communities as a tribal councilor, administrator and legislative representative. I have extensive knowledge of tribal governments and have extensive experience protecting, preserving and promoting Tribal Sovereignty.

The decision to run for leadership is not something I take lightly. Over the last three years it has been my honor to serve the community in the Niigaandiwin Education Department where I served as a Student Advocate, Project Director, Education Programs Administrator and currently as Interim Director. It is in this work that I spent a great deal of my time learning about the Little Traverse Bay Bands history, culture and governmental structure.

In my work as Project Director of the Nitaazhitoojik Industrial Training Program, I learned a great deal about the people of the Tribe and their circumstances. In this role I was able to strengthen partnerships with North Central Michigan College that lead to the establishment of an Industrial Welding Program that continues to operate today. The welding program enjoyed 80-90% enrollments of tribal citizens, all of whom completed at least one Welding Certification. In this role I dedicated myself to the work, taking great care to help student create success by supporting their needs.

One of our primary responsibilities in our work is to create sustainability, so our work continues to benefit people beyond our involvement. Creating sustainability means building partnerships and programs that continue beyond funding streams and grants. Our work is to create pathways for others to follow and to build strong foundations that enable others to sustain the work for our community. We achieve this by understanding the needs of our community and creating programs that move people toward economic security.

I have experience and skills in Casino Development and construction, from developing a business plan to selecting architects, building partners and financing. My experience in casino finance enabled me to negotiate responsible financing agreements that move projects from the design board to construction. My work in legislative affairs included writing briefing papers that educate Congress and state legislatures on sovereignty and treaty rights. It is this important experience that has enabled me to effectively represent tribal nations and communities.

Our goal as Anishinaabe people and nations must be to secure the future by building strong foundations and infrastructure that benefits future generations of Waganakising people.

**LTBB Election Board Nomination Application Form - SECTION 2
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)**

Benedict Hinmon

Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot

Petoskey, MI

City & State of Residency

1. Work Experience:

I have worked 46yrs with Tribal Governments & Indian Communities. I have served on Tribal Council (Saginaw Chippewa Tribe 1996-1999); on the planning team that finished construction and opening of Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort (1998); as Legislative Representative from 1999 to 2003 in Washington D.C. representing the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe on issues affecting federal tribes; as the President of the Native American Caucus for the International Coalition for People of Color (1983 - 1986). I am a founding member of the Michigan Indian Education Council (1977-1980) while serving on the BOD of the Bridge Between Two Worlds. I currently serve as the Interim Director of Niiaaandiwin Education for the Little Traverse Bav Bands of Odawa Indians.

2. Educational Background:

In 1986, I attended NAES College in Chicago IL studying Tribal Governance Systems. also attended Mid-Michigan Community College where I studied American History and took a few art classes. I have forty-six years experience with Indian communities and nations that provide a wide range of unique skills and expertise, including drafting and constructing legislation.

3. Traditional Cultural Experience/Knowledge, and/or Other Training, Certificates:

I am a survivor of Holy Childhood School of Jesus Indian Boarding School (1968-1970). Having survived Holy Childhood, I immediately sought out my Anishinaabe Culture, attending ceremonies and received teachings from my mentors George Martin, Eddie Benton Benet, Arthur Butch Elliot and my good friend Dennis Banks. Before entering employment with LTBB, I held various positions at the Elijah Elk Cultural Center, where I served as the Stone Carving Instructor, Cultural Representative and Director. I facilitated workshop and teachings on Anishinaabe Culture and History to area schools and universities. During my legislative work, I worked extensively on protecting, preserving and educating others about tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and our history.

4. Volunteer Experience, Special Skills and Abilities:

I have served on many Boards and Committees over my forty-six years working in Indian Country. During my career I worked on a myriad of issues affecting tribal nations drafting legislative responses and position statements on behalf of the tribes and communities. I am an expert stone carver and wood carver/builder with several notable projects around Indian Country. I studied Native American Treaty Rights and Anishinaabe History under the tutelage of my good friend and colleague Dr. James McClurken.

5. Awards, Honors Received (cultural/colonial):

In 2007, I received the First Place Award at the indigenous Peoples Art Market in the Sculpture Category. My work for Indian country was not about awards, it was about leaving the people and communities better than when I arrived.

6. Describe Current and/or Previous Elected or Appointed Positions Held at LTBB or in Any Other Capacity, Government, or Organization (dates, titles, etc):

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council where I served as the Secretary (1996-1999). I served as Tribal Chairperson for the Saginaw, Swan Creek and Black River Band of Ojibwe (2007-2020). I served as the President of the Native American Caucus for the International Peoples of Color (1983-1986) Board Member from Northern Michigan for the Bridge Between Two Worlds (1977-1979) Board Member of the Michigan Indian Education Association (1977-1980)

7. If applicable, describe anticipated Campaign Information in Detail (Campaign Address, Email, Website, Social Media, Campaign Plan, Any Endorsements, etc):

Benedict Hinmon
5035 Pickerel Lake Road,
Petoskey, MI 49770
(989) 708-2501

I will be establishing a social media site in the very near future outlining my campaign agenda. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions and concern on my social media site once established. Chi-Miigwech