

Martha Pedoniquotte

Cape Croker United Church, Neyaashiniigmiing, ON

Nominated by: Cape Croker United Church

From nominator:

Martha's latest involvement was with the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle. She has held the position of Cape Croker United Church's Board Chair for many years. She has kept the community informed of the status of both the larger church and the community church relevant to changes. She is proactive rather than reactive and willing and able to work hard. She has the gift of calm and great articulation when speaking. She has chaired various committees so is well apprised of committee operations and responsibilities.

Tell us about yourself. (e.g. skills, experience, and what gifts you would bring to the Organization.):

I have been involved with the General Council Office of the United Church for many years now, beginning with the Healing Fund in which I served two terms. During this time I was chosen for the Aboriginal Ministries Council by the Ontario-Quebec Native Ministry. As part of the Aboriginal Ministries Council I served on the Executive of the United Church; the Planning Committee for General Council 40; the Moderator's Advisory Committee; and the planning Committee for the National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering in Prince Rupert, BC. I have been committed to the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle in developing the Calls to the Church, and most recently a member of the Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools. I have also been a part of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre as a board member and Chairperson.

As you can see by my volunteer experience I have vast knowledge of the functions of the United Church; in Board and Committee work and I am dedicated to serving and utilizing my skills to assist our Indigenous communities. I have recently graduated with a Social Service Worker Diploma from Loyalist College and have a deep compassion and understanding of the social structures, social justice, and social dynamics within our communities, not only because of my studies, but due to the fact that I have served as a Band Councillor for 8 years. I am aware of the intergenerational trauma and its impacts, not just from residential school but through the Sixties Child Welfare Scoop; the enlistment in the World Wars; and the abuse that has taken place by clergy in many communities. I believe that I carry empathy, as well as our seven sacred teachings of love, respect, courage, honesty, truth, wisdom, and humility.

Please provide a statement verifying your commitment to serve:

I believe that the work that the National Indigenous Organization is ready to embark upon is very important and by agreeing to have my name put forth I am also committing to the work that needs to be done. My term on my community's Band Council comes to an end this August and my studies are complete, which will free up my time to commit to this work. I am faithfully committed to the United Church, and have a desire to see the work of the church unfold to include Indigenous people as equitable as possible. I look forward to this work wholeheartedly.