



DEAN SAYERS

Dean Sayers served as Chief of Batchewana First Nation for nearly two decades, and is from the Crane Clan, specifically linked to the blue heron in the central Great Lakes region.

His journey as a leader has been driven by an unwavering commitment to the progress and well-being of the original Peoples of these lands.

Throughout his tenure, Dean has dedicated his life to advancing the interests of Indigenous communities and fiercely advocating for their rights. He firmly believes that the creation of the Assembly of First Nations marked a significant milestone, established to be a voice and advocate for the collective interests of Indigenous peoples.

Dean's decision to run for National Chief was influenced by his interactions with Elders, knowledge keepers, and his deep belief in ceremony. He is guided by the vision of our ancestors, which encompasses a holistic approach focusing on preserving our language, our lands, our people, and asserting inherent laws, with a primary focus on action-based protection of inherent jurisdiction.

In the role of National Chief, Dean will be deeply committed to revitalizing the core elements of Nationhood within Indigenous communities, ensuring they become pillars of strength once more. His leadership style aims to enhance governance systems and compel settler governments to honour their promises and commitments made through treaty, agreements, and acknowledgement of inherent jurisdictions. He will be assertive yet fair, encouraging First Nations leadership across the country to reclaim jurisdictional areas not surrendered in any treaties or agreements.

Dean's remarkable career includes serving as one of the lead negotiators for the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 annuities litigation, which resulted in a groundbreaking \$10 billion settlement. He was also a strong advocate during the Ontario First Nations' fight against the proposed HST tax. Dean has been a consistent participant in regional leadership spaces such as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), where he has contributed his experience and insights to the broader Indigenous community.

Dean recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach does not fit the diverse lands of Indigenous peoples. It is time to reclaim their rightful place as the first order of government on these lands. While the journey ahead cannot be completed overnight, it is a path that must be charted. With the right ingredients in place, the First Nation collective can achieve the progress everyone aspires to see, and Dean wants to be the catalyst for that change, working collaboratively with Indigenous communities.

Dean is both humbled and incredibly proud to be engaged in this very important journey, where he aims to champion the work on behalf of Indigenous communities and the betterment of their collective future.

More information about Dean Sayers can be found at: deansayers.com