



Bośho! Melinda Cooper-Williamson nēshnēkas. Aśhenikos nīshnabe nēnoswēn. I am the daughter of the late Phil “Pneshi” Cooper and the granddaughter of the late Walter “Paso” Cooper and Augustine “Cot-wa” Mitchell. My great grandparents are the late Jon Cooper, Madeline Jackson Spears, John Mitchell and Fannie Mitchell.

I currently reside on the Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation with my daughter Ayakwikaha. Academically, I earned my A.S. in Natural Resources from Haskell Indian Nations University and my B.S. in Natural History Biology from Kansas State University. I continued my graduate education at Oklahoma State University, where I earned my M.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Management. Professionally, I worked in academia for eight years doing research and grant management in grassland ecology before moving home from Oklahoma, to work for the tribe. I worked as the Diabetes Program Manager from 2012-2016, during which time, I also started my own kombucha business called Morning Light Kombucha. In 2016 I took a part time position as the Administrative Specialist for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Language and Cultural Department, which is where I currently work, in addition to running my own business.

Being able to bring my education and professional experiences back to the nation has been very rewarding and allows me to give back after all of the help they have provided with my education. I am now ready to serve my people in a broader capacity with the submission of my application for Ethics Commission.

It is my honor to be running for Ethics Commissioner #1. The commission has a great responsibility to our Prairie Band Potawatomi people; to provide balance within our tribal government. I pledge to remain unbiased, moral and judicious if elected. Our community deserves a fair and neutral committee to bring grievances to. Please vote Melinda Cooper Williamson for Ethics Commissioner #1