

Bozho. My name is Liana Onnen, and I am running to fill the remaining term of the Chairperson seat for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Ethics Commission.

I have decided to run for this seat because it is important that the ethics complaints and questions that arise regarding our Tribal Council and other elected/appointed officials need to be addressed and should be addressed in a timely manner.

The timeline for processing Ethics concerns has taken too long for many years. Most of this has been due to a lack of a full Ethics Commission that can act and report. With the vacancies and resignations, many issues are not addressed in a timely manner and a result is that members are not informed of these concerns or activities, sometimes for years, due to the inability of the Ethics Commission to act due to a lack of members.

I have 20 years of experience in Indian Country, 18 of those years working directly with and for the Nation. I am currently serving as the Housing Department Director and am entering my third year in that role. As many of you know, I have also served on the Tribal Council and as General Manager of Tribal Operations.

It is my hope that my experience within our Tribal Government for 18 years will help to continue to grow the Ethics Commission and improve upon what others have already worked to build.

Accountability is more important than ever, and ethical concerns can be complicated and without clear cut answers. With a dedicated, full Ethics Committee, I believe we can only improve upon what has been built by those who have come before us and find answers and provide fair and equitable guidance on issues not only to our people, but also to our Tribal Council.

The Ethics Committee is another voice for our people to express their concerns and I believe valid concerns should be reviewed and addressed not so that we can punish or "catch" our officials, but so we can help one another to grow and become better.

I appreciate your consideration and would appreciate your vote for Ethics Chairperson.

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