



**NÎSOHKAMÂTOWIN
"HELPING EACH OTHER"**

**IRVIN DAVID
JOHN KNOTT JR.
FOR CHIEF**

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**DUNCAN'S FIRST
NATION ELECTION
JULY 15TH, 2025**



**HONOURING THE TREATIES. HONOURING THE PEOPLE.
HONOURING YOU.**



**FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME VIA EMAIL OR MY NUMBER.
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To the members of Duncan's First Nation, both on and off reserve,

My name is Irvin David John Knott Jr., and before I begin, I would like to thank you for considering me as a candidate for the 2025 election of Duncan's First Nation. I am writing to you with the utmost respect, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility as I continue forth with my candidacy for the position of Chief.

My Connection to the community:

My connection to Duncan's First Nation first began through my late father—Irvin Knott Sr., and my late mother—Beverly Young in 1973. I was raised on reserve and maintained strong connections that exist beyond biological ties with members from across our nation. It exists from personal experiences, shared challenges, and a strong sense of pride in our people. I was born into this nation, raised among the guidance of our Elders, surrounded by stories, teachings, and traditions that have carried our people for generations.

In 1998, was the year I first met my wife. Together, we've experienced hardships and the unique challenges of living off-reserve. In late 2007, we made the important decision to move our family back to Duncan's First Nation, motivated by a strong desire to raise our children with the same values, traditions, and cultural teachings. Our move was more than just about coming home. It was about strengthening our connection to the community and making sure our children grew up grounded to their identity. Throughout our journey together, I have gained a strong understanding of the importance of continuing to maintain our way of life, navigate, and build respectful relationships with surrounding municipalities. These experiences have given me the knowledge and dedication needed to help serve the members of Duncan's First Nation effectively and with integrity.



Over the years, I have had many conversations with community members at kitchen tables, during social events, and community celebrations. I have heard their concerns, witnessed their determination, their resilience, and their commitment to help preserve our culture for upcoming generations despite the distance life had moved them.

I have worked side-by-side with youth, supported Elders, and accompanied those who face difficult times. I have seen the gaps in our services and the opportunities we're missing—but I also see the solutions that come when we work together. The knowledge I gained from my experiences helped guide me as I entered this election.

This position is not just about leadership. It's about listening, showing up, and making decisions that reflect the voices of all our people. My goal is to establish connections between on-reserve and off-reserve members, all while ensuring everyone receives equal treatment so our members can feel recognized and important. I strongly believe that whether we walk the land of our ancestors here on-reserve, or we build our lives in rural areas, towns, and cities off-reserve, we are all part of one Nation and one family.



Work I took part in during my position as Councillor; 2016-2022:

- New Water Treatment Plant
- Covid Centre
- Nikan Goods and Gas
- New School Bus
- Emergency Preparedness
- Traditional Land Use
- Garbage Truck
- Water Truck
- Treaty 8 ECDEV team, and our nation:
 - Negotiated with Joint Ventures to create employment opportunities
 - Cows and Plows
 - Land Claims
 - Strong advocacy in upholding our Treaty rights
- Represented our nation during Treaty 8 meetings
 - Brought back information to our nation
- Western Cree Child Family Services board
- Helped with Environmental Monitoring for our nation
- Heavily involved with community initiatives
 - Occasionally drove the school bus
 - Operated heavy duty equipment when needed
 - Other small tasks out of spectrum for community / community events

My volunteered work:

- Cultural community events
- Helped alongside the Education Department
 - Worked alongside the Education Director for grade school and post secondary students
- Power Saw, FireSmart Safety, and Wildland Firefighting Training Courses
- Coached minor hockey, Native Provincials, and minor baseball
- Acting DEM – Director of Emergency Management which included meetings, training, organizing teams and work that would minimize the impacts of emergencies (wildfires).



My leadership focus:

- ✳ **Fiscal responsibility and transparency:** Committed to financial management and open communication about how funds are allocated and spent.
- ✳ **Fair, equitable and informed decision-making:** Every decision will be rooted in fairness, respect for tradition, and what is best for the long-term success of DFN.
- ✳ **Accountability to community:** Regular updates, open forums, and accessible leadership to ensure community voices are heard and valued.
- ✳ **Support for youth and future generations:** Increased investment in youth programs, education, mentorship, and career development to empower the next generation.
- ✳ **Inclusive leadership:** Ensuring that all on and off reserve members have a seat at the table and are treated with dignity, equality, and respect.
- ✳ **Elders' guidance and respect:** Upholding the wisdom and knowledge of our Elders in community planning, governance, and cultural preservation.
- ✳ **Culture and language revitalization:** Strengthening initiatives that protect and promote our language, traditions, and heritage for future generations.
- ✳ **Housing and infrastructure development:** Advocating for sustainable, safe, and adequate housing, while improving essential infrastructure (water, roads, etc).
- ✳ **Economic development and job creation:** Promoting local businesses, partnerships, and bringing long-term economic growth and employment to DFN.
- ✳ **Health and wellness:** Enhancing access to all health related services, and cultural healing practices.
- ✳ **Environmental stewardship:** Prioritizing the protection of our lands, waters, and resources through responsible development and environmental respect.
- ✳ **Strong intergovernmental relationships:** Building respectful and beneficial relationships with other governments and organizations.
- ✳ **Emergency preparedness and community safety:** Ensuring emergency readiness and that community safety is top priority.



As we move forward together, I carry with me the Seven Sacred Teachings; Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth. These values are the foundation of how I will lead, listen, and serve if given the honour to represent our Nation. They remind us of who we are, where we come from, and the strength we hold when we walk together in a good way.

And I would like to sincerely wish all the candidates running for Chief and Council the very best. It takes true commitment and courage to step into leadership. I wish each of you strength, clarity, and a good heart as you take on this journey. May this election bring out the best in all of us. For the benefit of our people, our land, and our future generations.

No matter the outcome of this election, I am grateful for the opportunity to listen, learn, and stand beside you. Our future is shaped by each voice, teaching, and act of unity within our people. With your support, I will lead with heart, integrity, and a deep respect for all generations; past, present, and those still to come. Hiy-hiy!

For any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me via email or my number; irvinknottjr34@hotmail.com and/or +1 (780) - 625- 7581.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Irvin Knott Jr.