



## Public Statement

Public Statement and Open Letter from Interim Mayor Kim Baigrie to The Community of Ignace

Good Day Everyone.

As a newly re-elected Councillor of the Township of Ignace, I didn't expect that I would be in this position to be issuing a Public Statement to the Community as your Interim Mayor, yet here we are.

On April 4, 2023, Township Council was faced with one of the greatest challenges in our term thus far. As a re-elected Councillor, ready and willing to get on with the business of the community and excited about bringing economic growth, we were instead faced with two resignations from the, now former, Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

After learning the facts, information and details around the issues staff were facing, myself and the two remaining Councillors made a difficult decision to accept the resignation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. We also took the necessary steps to bring in professionals who can assess and make recommendations moving our Council forward in a positive direction.

Although we cannot provide specific details of the issues we are facing, we have made decisions to bring forward several investigations that will inevitably bring clarity and finality to these allegations. One of our mandated duties as a Council is to ensure that our Township staff are protected from harassment and bullying and that we are doing everything we can as a governance body to ensure a healthy, safe and inclusive working environment for our staff.

Unfortunately, our issues don't stop there. We on Council are all democratically elected by the public, similar to any other community, city or country in the Western Hemisphere. We all maintain one vote and we must all utilize that vote to advance any initiative of this Council. The majority of those votes carry forward a collective and consensual approval. As such, when one or two members of Council decide to work alone and move initiatives forward without the majority and approval of Council as a whole, it completely destroys the intent of democracy. This is both unacceptable and unjust.

Regardless, as a Council we all made an oath to carry forward the business and operational aspects of this community in a positive manner and I am very happy to report that we will continue to progress in that direction.

I am humbled and proud to have been appointed the Interim Mayor although, I would have preferred a different type of circumstances. We are currently reviewing all of our options as a Council to move forward to promptly replace the two vacant positions.

We will continue to maintain an open line of communications with the community during this time of transition and I want to thank Ignace for its patience and support. We will get through these difficult times and once again come together as a stronger and more vibrant community and explore the possibilities!

We will always respect your meaningful and truthful feedback.

Kim Baigrie  
Interim Mayor  
Ignace