

November 23, 2022

ELAINE JOHNSTON

Elaine Johnston is the newly elected Vice Chair of the Algoma District School Board (ADSB), elected on November 15, 2022. She also continues as the ADSB's First Nation Trustee, her third term having been first appointed in 2014. From Serpent River First Nation, Elaine has served on numerous Boards and committees at the local, regional and national level.

She is the Chair of the Indigenous Trustee Council of the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA). Presently she is also the Chair of the Elliot Lake Hospital Board. Elaine is the former Chief of Serpent River First Nation, a position she held for four and a half years. She sat on Council for 10 years and was a former Chair of the Nogdawindamin Board and Vice Chair of Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council. She worked at the Assembly of First Nations and the Anishinabek Nation.

Elaine has presented to the United Nations, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and to numerous standing committees and has been a guest lecturer on health issues at Laurentian University, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, and University of Toronto.

Elaine attended post-secondary education at Cambrian College and Sudbury Laurentian University and received training as an Ambulance & Emergency Care Attendant, Paramedic along with her diploma and degree in nursing. Elaine received a nomination from Cambrian College for the 2006 Premier's award in health sciences. Her career in health provided her opportunities to work in the hospital, ambulance, air ambulance, community, the Canadian Coast Guard, government and First Nation organizations. Elaine was one of the Top 10 selected to launch the first Ontario Air Ambulance service which later became Orange. Elaine was the first woman and the first Aboriginal person hired. She was also part of a health delegation which traveled to Beijing China and Ulan Batar Mongolia.

Elaine is a proud Anishinabek woman and she is the eldest of 11 women with 39 nieces and nephews. She is a passionate advocate for the needs of the First Nations and Aboriginal people and is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal youth realize their full potential and that they receive the best education possible.