

## **Candidates for the Office of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations announced Today – June 17, 2009**

OTTAWA, June 17 - Loretta Pete Lambert, the Chief Electoral Officer responsible for the July 2009 election for the office of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, has received and approved nomination papers from the following persons (home region included):

- Shawn Atleo (British Columbia)
- John Beaucage (Ontario)
- Perry Bellegarde (Saskatchewan)
- Terrance Nelson (Manitoba)
- Bill Wilson (British Columbia)

According to the AFN Charter an eligible candidate must be:

- eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- of First Nation ancestry;
- a member of a First Nation community in good standing with the AFN; and,
- endorsed by 15 eligible electors (First Nations Chiefs).

The election for the position of National Chief will be held at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre in Calgary, AB on July 22, 2009 during the AFN's 30th Annual General Assembly (July 21-23).

Elections are held in accordance with the AFN Charter, which states that the first person to receive sixty (60) percent of the votes from registered voters at the Assembly will be declared the winner. There are more than 630 First Nations communities in Canada that are recognized as members of the Assembly of First Nations.

Note that media will have to contact candidates directly to arrange interviews. AFN policy does not allow AFN staff to assist candidates in their campaign work and this includes media interviews. Contact information has been provided by each candidate.

Biographies of the candidates are available. Contacts and phone numbers:

Shawn Atleo

Tel: 1-877-Shawn09 (742-9609) ext. 4

E-mail: [satleo@shawnatleo.com](mailto:satleo@shawnatleo.com).

Alternative contact:

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Perry Bellegarde  
John Hill, Campaign Manager  
Alternative contact:  
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Bill Wilson  
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The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

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