



## GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

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### Media Release

## Celia Echum Re-elected for 2<sup>nd</sup> Term as Chief of Ginoogaming First Nation

*Celia becomes only GFN Chief in the 2000s to be re-elected with landslide victory*

**AUGUST 20, 2009 – THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO:** Ginoogaming First Nation near Longlac, Ontario held their Chief and Council elections on Wednesday evening as community members gathered to witness the results. Celia Echum secured a second term as Chief after being re-elected with a massive win defeating her competitors by more than one hundred and nineteen votes. *(65% of voters)*

“I would like to thank everyone who believed in me since day one – my mover and seconder, and the community for re-electing me for another term,” stated Chief Celia Echum. Chief Echum is ecstatic that she gets to continue pursuing important projects like the Wind Farm, Ginoogaming Gold, Road and Bridge replacement, Housing Renovations and plans to add a new subdivision.

“I feel the reason I was voted in is because I’m a good listener and people person especially to our elders and youth” added Celia. “We’ve still got a lot of work to do in order to move ahead, we’re not stopping here.”

One of Celia’s goals in the last 2 years was to make positive changes within the administration of Ginoogaming by having their own people trained and placed in management and program service delivery. This provides for continuity in programs and gives the community a sense of pride and ownership. Priority was given to band members living on Ginoogaming land for education, employment and training opportunities. Local band members were hired in various positions in the band office, maintenance, health centre and Aboriginal Head Start (Child Care).

“These economic times were tough but I am most proud of the way we united and have battled through this recession together. I applaud the staff that has done well at delivering our programs, creating jobs, development projects and maintaining our community spirit. **As we made history together - we will prosper together,**” Chief Celia Echum stated.

The 2009 – 2011 Ginoogaming First Nation Band Council is:

Jerry Echum	Councillor
David Charles	Councillor
Blaine Martin	Councillor
Gwen O’Nabigon	Councillor
Maurice Waboose	Councillor
Joseph Dore Jr.	Councillor

Celia becomes the first Ginoogaming Chief to be re-elected in the 2000s. The last Chief to win two elections in a row was her husband Gabriel Echum when he led the First Nation for three consecutive terms from 1993-1999. Celia is also the first Chief in almost 20 years to lead her community through a recession.

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### **About Ginoogaming First Nation**

Ginoogaming First Nation (formerly the Long Lake 77 First Nation) is a small Anishnawbe (Ojibway) First Nation located in Northern Ontario, located approximately 40 km east of Geraldton, Ontario, Canada, on the northern shore of Long Lake, immediately south of Long Lake 58 First Nation and the community of Longlac, Ontario. Ginoogaming has a total registered population was 773 people, of which 168 residing on First Nation territory.

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