



**Statement by incoming Pinawa Chamber of Commerce President, Tanis Thomas  
Pinawa Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting – June 3, 2021**

Hello everyone and thank you for the introduction Nancy, I am pleased to accept the position and work towards the betterment of our business community in Pinawa. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Tanis Thomas and I am the incoming President of the Pinawa Chamber.

Before we move ahead with the business of the AGM, I am going to speak briefly about why I joined the Pinawa Chamber and what I plan to do over the next year.

When I moved to Pinawa in 2016 it was a family decision based on the community's location in the Boreal Forest on the Canadian Shield, and the ability to access high speed internet for business and education. Since moving here I am happy to report that my expectations for the services available in our community have been met, and I extend thanks to everyone that has made my family welcome here. I joined the Pinawa Chamber in order to connect with the local business community and as a continuance in my involvement in the business community as a member and former board member of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce based in Winnipeg. I think that successful and healthy communities require the involvement of the people that live and work therein, and I am happy to carry on this work here in Pinawa to support our growing business community to the best of my ability. Thank you to Nancy and the Board, and all the members of the Chamber, I look forward to serving the interests of our business community and being part of Pinawa and the surrounding areas sustainable growth.

As you are likely aware, there has been a series of events over the last week in Canada that I think are worth noting as they are relevant to work I propose to undertake this year on behalf of the Chamber. The recent discovery of two hundred and fifteen unmarked graves in BC on the site of a former Residential School is disturbing to say the least. I think that now is the time for the Chamber to review the TRC recommendations and work towards implementing anything that is pertinent to our organization as a representation of the business community in Pinawa. I am willing to review the documentation and prepare information and motions for the Board, I trust that this is something the membership will support as the actual work is minimal for the members but the rewards of working towards equity and the end of Canada's history and contemporary reality for Indigenous people is something that we can all take pride in. I am unfamiliar with all of the history of the Pinawa Chamber of Commerce, but as the incoming President, and an Indigenous person, I think that this is relevant and worth committing time and effort to.

With that in mind, I would like to move forward with the agenda and the motions noted. Miigwetch, Ekosani, Thank you.

