

# Election-specific Skills

## MODULE 8: PUTTING YOUR NAME FORWARD



Depending on the type of position you plan to run for, it is important to recognize the steps required to get your name on the ballot before you officially begin campaigning. For example, it is always a good idea to talk to a few people to try to assess what kind of support you have. Also, it is culturally acceptable to talk to a few Elders, especially if you are considering running for a position with an indigenous government/organization.

### Why Run?

There is a lot to think about when entering any political arena. Hopefully, this course has provided you with some skills that will help you run a successful campaign, but just getting into the running is something to celebrate – win or lose. It's important to recognize that challenging ourselves to do something new and different is going to feel scary and possibly uncomfortable. You may notice your inner critique telling you that you're not good enough or not ready enough. Be careful not to listen to that critique too closely. That's the self-doubt that is trying to hold you back from taking a risk.

However, it's those feelings of discomfort that could mean that we're pushing ourselves to grow, to do something bigger than we have done before -to make a difference. Our communities in the NWT need more balanced representation to guide the decisions that are made. You may even choose to support the involvement of political participation by supporting another candidate as you become more comfortable with the process yourself.

