

# 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.

Women in the NWT have much to offer public life. Whether it is skill, ability, education, life experience, or commitment; women are needed to balance public discourse decisions made by our elected leaders. Substantive representation of all northerners is not only good for democracy but is also good for public policy and governance.

## Summary

There are countless ways to serve your community to affect change. Once you are ready to consider running for an elected official role, be sure to do your homework to understand if you're eligible, how to get nominated, the time requirements in that role, the expectations of serving in that role and the campaign rules. Remember that it's important that our elected officials resemble the people that they serve and that the NWT needs more women to step up into these important and powerful roles.