

Kristine McLeod was raised in Inuvik, NT, Canada by parents Sandra and Vern McLeod, she is the granddaughter of Sarah McLeod-Firth (nee Modeste) originally from Tsiigehtchic and the late Bill (William) McLeod. Her great-grandparents (paternal) are Mary Modeste (nee Etue) and Simon Modeste of the Tsiigehtchic/Delta region in Canada's Northwest Territories.

Upon graduating from Samuel Hearne Secondary School (SHSS) in 2001, she moved south to pursue her post-secondary schooling in Commerce and Financial Accounting. In 2009 she moved to Yellowknife, NT where she worked for the GNWT Department of Finance and Department of Infrastructure for a combined total of 10 years, most recently as Finance's Manager of Financial Planning & Budgeting before being elected as GTC Deputy Grand Chief.

Kristine's commitment to the Gwich'in Nation started at a young age; from her time served as President of the Nihtat Youth Council in her early teens, to her most recent roles as Vice Chair of the Izhii K'aiik'it Tat Gwich'in Society (Yellowknife Gwich'in Society) from 2011-2020 and as Vice Chair of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation (GSC) from 2016-2019 and as Chair of the GSC in 2020. When asked about her experience, Kristine has said: "I have always felt a strong connection and desire to work hard for our Nation, and have spent the last 20 years immersing myself in key areas that would enable me to do this."

In July 2020, Kristine ran for GTC Deputy Grand Chief because she decided it was time for her to move back to the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) and put her financial, management, and leadership skills to use for the benefit of the Gwich'in Nation. Kristine believes "...that Gwich'in should think big and follow our dreams. If we create educational opportunities for our people, grow our businesses and economic strengths, and nurture our language and culture, we can take our rightful place leading the future of the North."