

There have been comments and allegations made about me online this week that I would like to address. What has transpired has made me look back and reflect on my conduct over 22 years of working as a chef.

The kitchen environment I entered into at the young age of 15 was, admittedly, one of misogyny, sexism, homophobia, racism and crude behaviour. I engaged in that culture and made harmful remarks that I thought were funny. They weren't.

I sincerely apologize for comments I have made in the past that have made anyone feel uncomfortable. I want to make amends for any remarks I have made that have offended or hurt anyone.

Going forward, any kitchen I am directly in charge of will have full workplace sensitivity training to make sure there is nothing but an inclusive, positive culture -- with no exceptions.

In the last several years, my personal and professional goals have simply been to become better. To become better at life, to be better at relationships, to be better at business, to be better at being a good, kind, and decent human being.

What is especially important for me to address is that I have NEVER sexually abused anyone, ever. I have never stolen anything from anyone, EVER.

Four people have spoken out against me with specific allegations. Two worked with me.

In one case I offended a person I considered a friend and I am deeply sorry. I lost that friend because of my cavalier behaviour.

In another case, I wrote the wrong name which upset a former employee who had transitioned. I apologized at the time and would apologize again. My apology was posted online by the individual.

I have not worked with the person who originally posted, and I barely know her, so it is difficult for me to provide context.

A fourth person said I made inappropriate requests over social media while I was married. This absolutely did not happen. I am so devoted to my family and I would never endanger that.

Please know that I am doing my best to listen and do better. And again, I apologize for behaviour and comments that offended anyone.

Douglas McNish