

## Chief and Council Nominee Bios

### *Chief Dalton Silver*

I come from a long line of leadership from the Malloway/Silver family. My mother is Marlene Malloways from the Ts'elxweyeqw Tribe in Chilliwack, and my father was Dave Silver from Semá:th First Nation. My grandparents were Ambrose and Nellie-Jane (Jean) Silver from Semá:th and Ritchie and Edna Malloway from Chilliwack.

I have been in leadership for 30 and my sixth term as Chief for Semá:th, but I didn't come by this role in leadership by chance. There have been Chiefs and Warriors in my family for many years. At 11 years of age, I have fond memories of going to my first Chief's meeting with my Grandfather Ritchie Malloway when he was the Chief for the Fraser East District Council.

Following the footsteps of the leaders in my family, I like to maintain and uphold a strong connection to the culture and values of Semá:th. In the past, I have served as Chief for the Yakwekwioose First Nation while maintaining an elected council position with Semá:th. In my strong commitment to the advancement of our Community and First Nations overall, I sit on many provincial and national Committees including Land Claims, Environment and Fisheries committees and co-Chair the BC specific Claims Working Group. I am an advocate for Semá:th and honoured to be progressive and pushing all levels of Government to listen while we assert our inherent Rights and Title as First Nation people.

As a leader, the future of our Community is always on my mind in dealings with all levels of Government. I have negotiated agreements with Provincial and Federal governments as well as industries and have spoken before the National Energy Board presenting a cultural and environmental perspective against development in our Territory. I have also spoken at Parliament, appearing before the Senate Standing Committee for Fisheries and Oceans. Moreover, I was one of the first Indigenous leaders to speak at the floor of the Washington State Legislature.

In my leadership capacity, I have also met with Ministers at different levels and maintain relationships with local leaders. My grandfather used to say that in the Coast Salish Territory, Semá:th was the central location where the people used to gather. I believe that in the modern context with our new surroundings, we need to interact with our new neighbours. We need to build relationships, share our histories so that we can better understand each other while maintaining our identity as Semá:th. We need to strengthen our position in the local economy and in society itself in the hope that sometime in the future, Semá:th can be reestablished as a central place amongst the Coast Salish.

I am a student of life and believe there is always more to learn. It has been a great honour to serve the Semá:th people as Chief. If I am re-elected as Chief, I will continue to do my best in advocating for a healthy and sustainable environment for our Community and for future generations to come.