

Chief and Council Nominee Bios

Thetáx (Councillor Chris Silver)

Éy Swáyel,

Thetáx – Christopher Allen Silver comes from a long line of leadership from the Jones/ Silver family. His mother is Gayle Jones who has ties to the Tecumseh Tribe in Windsor, Ontario and his father is Herbert Silver from Semá:th (Sumas First Nation).

Born and raised in Semá:th, Christopher Silver has been in leadership for 4 years. He was elected to Semá:th Council in 2019 and re-elected as Councillor in 2022, but he didn't come by this role in leadership by chance.

Chris began his work with the community in 2011 as a Cultural Coordinator for Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services. From that time being, he worked with the Qwi:qwelstóm Restorative Justice and moved seats to Cultural Education and Tourism for Stó:lō. Chris also worked with the Abbotsford School District 34 as a Cultural Support Worker until his time in Council in 2019.

Throughout his life, Chris has developed a passion for Traditional History and ethnobotany from the Elders that were displaced before him. From the teachings he received from his Ancestors and Elders, he implemented Semá:th history and culture into the curriculum for education as well in his teachings and speeches. In his leadership capacity, Chris has met with Ministers at different Government levels and continues to share Semá:th culture, history, and traditions in all aspects of his leadership.

To carry the voice of his Ancestors and Elders before him, Chris also Co-Authored the award-winning book "Semá:th Xó:tsa – Sts'ólemeqwelh Sxó:tsa *Great-Gramma's Lake*". This book is about what Semá:th Xó:tsa – Sumas lake means to the Semá:th people. To write this book, Chris drew upon echoes of the stories and teachings of Semá:th ancestors and with the use of oral and visual storytelling, helped readers to understand how stories are passed down through generations.

As a leader, the future of his community is always on Chris's mind in dealings with all levels of education, teaching, and Government. His goal is to continue to implement what his ancestors and Elders have taught him to make tomorrow a better future for all generations to come.