

Chief and Council Nominee Bios

Siyamexwelalexw.- .Councilor.Troy.Ganzeveld

Éy swáye! Semá:th Community,

I have had the honour of serving our Nation as a Councillor for the past three years, and I remain dedicated to strengthening our community and safeguarding our future; S'olh Temexw te ikw'elo Xolhmet te mekw 'stam it kwelat – This is our land. We have to look after everything that belongs to us.

I am the son of Lorraine (Ned) Ganzeveld and Herman “Dutchie” Ganzeveld and the grandson of Edna (Joe) and Clarence Ned Sr. Over the years, my commitment to Semá:th has taken many forms – from coordinating public works, emergency response, and environmental monitoring, to chairing the Lands Advisory Committee and contributing to social housing policy. Each role has deepened my understanding of the challenges we face and has fueled my drive to build a stronger, more resilient community with a focus on protecting our rights and resources for future generations.



During my term on Council, I have worked hard to ensure that our Nation is represented at all levels of Government and that our members' voices are heard. My key portfolios include **Xyólhemeylh (Child and Families), Lands, and Emergency Management**. I have also overseen **Governance and Natural Resources**, a portfolio shared by all Council. Some key initiatives I have worked on include:

- **Flood Mitigation & Recovery** – Leading efforts to protect our lands and homes from future flooding, working with neighboring Nations, the City of Abbotsford, the Province of BC, and U.S. representatives including Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation on projects such as the **Fraser River Bank Stabilization Project, the Sumas Watershed Flood Mitigation Initiative, and the Transboundary Flood Initiative**.
- **Lands & Housing** – Attending **Additions to Reserve meetings** and working with CP holders on sustainable development, while advocating for new residential development to meet the needs of our growing membership.
- **Emergency Management** – Enhancing our emergency response through training, **partnerships with the Emergency Planning Secretariat**, and policy development to ensure the safety of our community.
- **Fisheries** – Representing Semá:th in Lower Fraser Fishery Alliance meetings, First Nations Fisheries Council Policy Forum, and planning for the 2025 Selective Fishing Project to ensure our people's access to traditional fishing practices.
- **Xyólhemeylh & Community Well-being** – Supporting our families through regular engagement with social workers, engaging with the Provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, participating in Family Group Conferences, and responding to urgent community needs.
- **Governance & Policy Development** – Contributing to the SFN Policy Review, dealing with the BC First Nations Justice Council, and ensuring our governance structures reflect transparency, accountability, and community priorities.

My commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-driven decision-making remains strong. If re-elected, I will continue advocating for regular General Band Meetings, the formation of community committees, and increased opportunities for members to engage in decision-making. I believe that every Council decision

should reflect the best interests of our people, and I will work collaboratively to ensure that our Nation's governance, economic development, and services align with our shared vision for a strong and thriving community.

I also recognize the importance of Sumas First Nation being represented at the national, provincial, and local levels. I will continue to attend meetings and forums that directly impact our Nation with improved efforts of sharing information with membership and the appropriate departments.

Most importantly, I will continue to show up – whether at Council meetings, community events, or in times of crisis – to listen, support, and advocate for you. I am proud to serve our Nation, and I hope to earn your trust once again to continue this important work.