
Chief and Council Nominee Bios

Chief Dalton Silver

Éy swayel Semá:th Community,

I come from a long line of leadership from the Malloway/Silver family. My mother is Marlene Malloway 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 years and in my seventh 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 the Land Claims, Environment and Fisheries committees and co-Chair the B.C. specific Claims Working Group. I am an advocate for Semá:th and am honored 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 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 an honor to serve the Semá:th People. 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.

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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-Authoring 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.

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Councillor Clint Tuttle

Hello Semá:th Community,

It has been my honor to serve Semá:th as a Councillor. For those who may not know me, my name is Clint Tuttle and I'm a part of the Silver family from my mother, Mona Silver's side. I recall that the first time I was nominated for Council, I had little confidence that I would be elected, but then the door burst open and my little cousin cried "*Congratulations Councillor!*" As I recall my response was "*yeah right*". Looking back, I can say that my journey in Council has been one of wholehearted service for the community.

Growing up, I saw inequality between Indigenous communities in the education system and wanted to ensure that no children from our community would be on waiting lists for schools and universities. While being on Council, I have had the honor of working towards this goal with our community and Staff and accomplishing it.

I also worked in construction industry before I was elected as Council, which led me to take on the Public Works and Housing portfolio for Sumas. It humbles me and it has been my honor to oversee the Housing department and be a part of the growth our Economic Development has accomplished.

With our Community growing over the past years, my hope is to see voices of our Elders and Youth at leadership tables. Currently, I am working with Sumas Staff to formulate Elder and Youth Leadership Committees so that voices of our Elders and Youth can be honored and heard at leadership tables.

Thank you for your continued support in my journey of being a Councillor. I will continue to do all that is in my power to ensure the betterment of our community.

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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.

Chief and Council Nominee Bios

Dena Silver

Geraldina (Dena Silver), KwuLuSulWut, born in Abbotsford and raised in Kilgard, Sumas First Nation. My parents are Barbara Silver (nee: Kelly) and late Herman Silver, both from Kilgard. My paternal grandparents are the late Ambrose and Jean Silver (nee: Shaw). My maternal grandparents are Hugh and Edyth Kelly (nee: Williams). I was born the seventh child of twelve. I have six sons, four grandsons, god/adopted grandson and step granddaughter. I was introduced to the longhouse culture at age 11 and began to practice at age 23.

I have a Bachelor's of Social Work Degree with experience stemming from Child Protection (CP). My experience as a social worker has provided me with knowledge of working with numerous government organizations, assisting with contract negotiations, built my understanding of Indigenous affairs and enhanced my knowledge of the best interest of children and their families. I have had the opportunity to develop skills in future planning, goal setting, supporting families and being part of diverse case management teams to work towards achieving positive, healthy progress for those involved.

I also have experience in Family and Cultural Connections work and have come to understand that this is where phenomenal change can happen. I had the privilege to work with Indigenous communities, their representatives and community members to create connections that had been broken due to this government imposed CP system that I consider an extension of the residential schools. I have witnessed the change that can occur, when opportunity is provided, for a child to be embraced by their loved ones and exposed to healing, their ancestral teachings and cultural practices.

I know of the struggles of our own students who attend the different levels of education from preschool to university, that lower income families and our elders face on a daily basis. I had previously suggested that our young people be encouraged to pursue educational goals that lead our community to become more self-sufficient/reliant, not needing to hire individuals who do not truly understand who we are and where we come from.

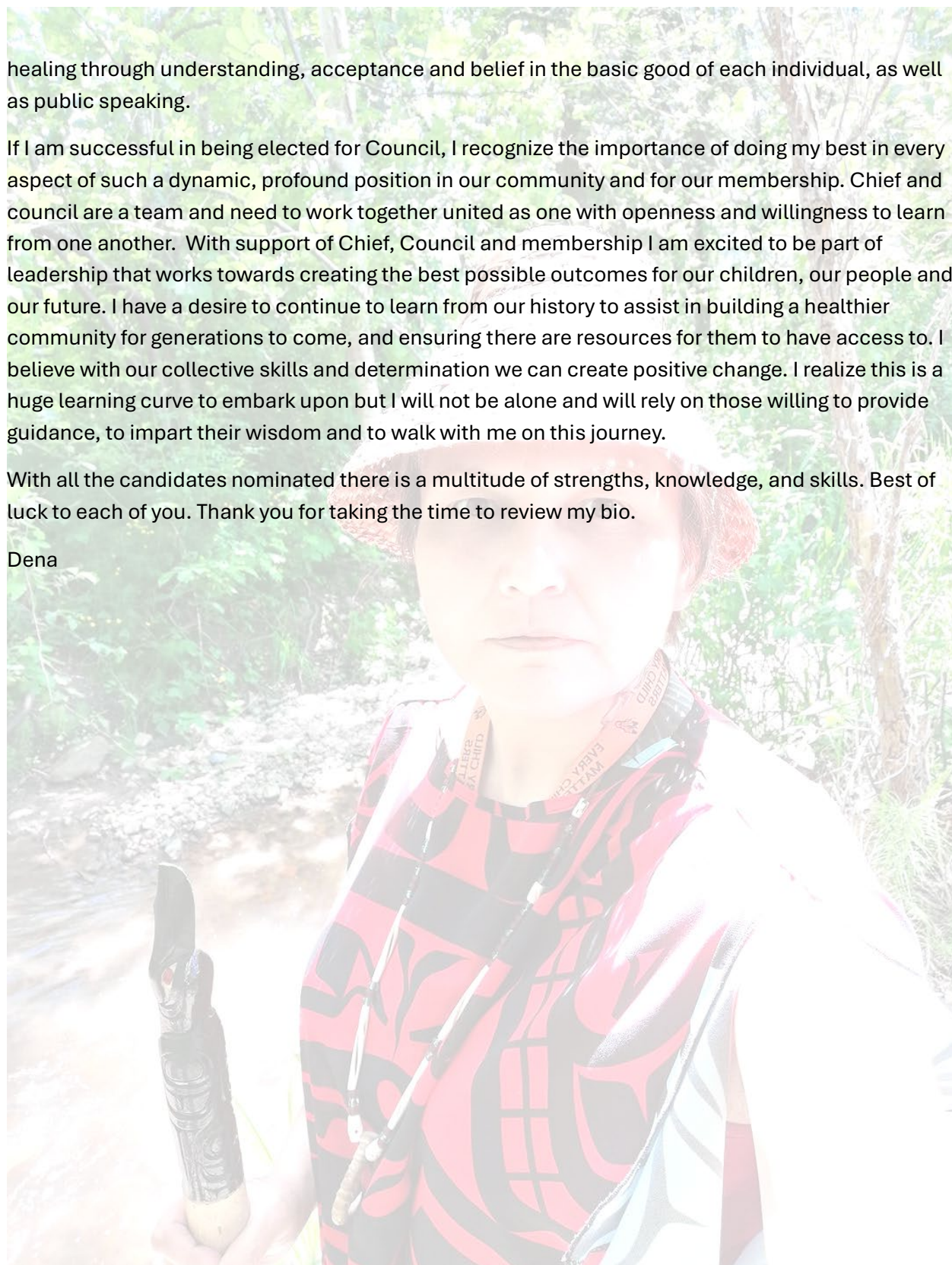
I am grateful for my most recent opportunity as an Elder/ Spiritual Advisor for Correctional Services Canada, which I consider another government imposed system stemming from the deep rooted trauma experienced in residential school, as well the foster care system. There is a change created on all levels in this system because of the realization of the profound impact social history contributes on all aspects of a being. Implementing cultural practices and teachings to assist in healing from trauma and supporting individuals to move forward in a healthier lifestyle and way of being. I have expanded my knowledge of healing trauma, substance abuse counseling, supporting

healing through understanding, acceptance and belief in the basic good of each individual, as well as public speaking.

If I am successful in being elected for Council, I recognize the importance of doing my best in every aspect of such a dynamic, profound position in our community and for our membership. Chief and council are a team and need to work together united as one with openness and willingness to learn from one another. With support of Chief, Council and membership I am excited to be part of leadership that works towards creating the best possible outcomes for our children, our people and our future. I have a desire to continue to learn from our history to assist in building a healthier community for generations to come, and ensuring there are resources for them to have access to. I believe with our collective skills and determination we can create positive change. I realize this is a huge learning curve to embark upon but I will not be alone and will rely on those willing to provide guidance, to impart their wisdom and to walk with me on this journey.

With all the candidates nominated there is a multitude of strengths, knowledge, and skills. Best of luck to each of you. Thank you for taking the time to review my bio.

Dena



Chief and Council Nominee Bios

Derek Silver

My name is Derek Silver (Iyoleweleq), I was born and raised in Sumas first nation. My Mother is Dena Silver, and I got to live my younger years with my Grandparents, Herman and Barb Silver.

I Graduated high school at Yale Secondary, and then went to UCFV where I took the Aboriginal Culture Language Support Work course. For my work-life, I started off at Abbotsford School District and now am working with Correctional Services of Canada as an Indigenous Liaison Officer.

Outside of work is where I feel like I thrive. At this time, I run Men's group for Sumas FN, I'm also the skipper for the Sema:th Warriors' canoe club and a member of our Longhouse. Doing all this keeps me sober year-round, however, the youth are the biggest reason to stay free of drugs and alcohol, as I believe that if the youth see me drinking or other similar things, it would tell them that it is ok to do these things. I have never really wanted to be a politician, but I think I always knew that this would end up being part of my destiny as I have often been put into a leadership position in various aspects of my life.

I believe that I am not just a part of a single family, but am a part of everyone in the community, as everyone from the community is family on and off reserve. If elected, I recognize that it would not make me any higher than any other person but would require me to do my absolute best to serve the people of Sema:th.

Chief and Council Nominee Bios

Iris Point

Ey Swayel! Xalunamut tel skwixs teli tsel kw'a Semá:th

Alison “Iris” Point (Nee: Ned) was born and raised on the Semá:th First Nation to Tl'owkómot Tess Ned (Nee: Brown; Wise-Rice) and Qwálosenstel Larry Ned Sr.

My traditional name is Xalunamut of Semá:th. Growing up you knew me as Iris; legally my name is Alison “Iris” Point my brother Larry Ned the 2nd could not say Alison, but he could say Iris and that was my middle name, and it stuck with me till now. I have not changed my name as this was the name of my parents' dear friend Al'. They thought I was going to be a boy, but proudly I came as a girl and then they called me Alison! I am a very proud Semá:th First Nation member, belonging to the Ned family.

I am a second generation residential school survivor and I acknowledge my Sto:lo Nation heritage and upbringing with strong teachings. Both of my parents are survivors; they are both very strong independent warriors who raised me with very strong cultural beliefs and traditional protocol passed down from my late grandfather Clarence Ned Sr. and Edna Ned (Nee: Joe); also, strong cultural teachings from my family from Vancouver Island. I have been with my husband Qwá:tsel Dave Point, who is from Musqueam First Nation Band, for 34 years. We are high school sweethearts; we have been joyfully married for 23 years.

My educational background and work experience have been obtained throughout various locations. I have obtained my Early Childhood Education Diploma and BA in Teacher Language, worked as an Aboriginal teacher assistant and liaison for the students in the Mission school district, Social Work Assistance in Musqueam First Nation. I have also spent the past 10 years in Yukon gaining experience as the Early childhood education manager, the education and wellness director, and a paramedic. Throughout this time, I embraced traditional teachings and healing practices on the land from several community members. I worked with Elders who taught me about harvesting traditional roots, plants, flowers, etc. to develop traditional salves, hydrosols, traditional sewing and beading, traditional trapping and hunting skills along with teaching me the preparation of meat that was hunted (moose, Elk, deer, rabbit, etc.). The training that I have completed was through grief and trauma healing, resilient routes healing, drumming, dancing, smudging, prayer, sweat lodge, etc.

Culturally, I have been involved with our traditional long house since my father was initiated back in 1980. I was initiated in 2024 when I returned home to Semá:th from living in the Yukon. I have since focused on the practices of harvesting our traditional medicinal plants throughout the seasons and learning valued traditional teachings. I am now currently working on completing a PHD.

I am honored to be a part of the BC Cancer Control department and pledge to use my education and work experience to actively function in my new role as the Indigenous Patient Navigator for Indigenous Cancer Control.

If elected as Council, I would be very honored to share all that I have humbly gained through my years of cultural, education and work experiences.

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Luwana Louis – Property Administrator (SXDL)

Ey swayell! Táteló:melhót tel sqix. Hello! My name is Luwana Louis, growing up you knew me as sis. and I am proud to be a member of the Sumas First Nation, belonging to the Williams family. I deeply value the relationship I have with my parents, Mud & Lulu, and am incredibly grateful for all they have done for me, my brother, my children, our cousins, aunts, and uncles. Their unwavering support over the years has been a cornerstone of our lives, and I truly appreciate every bit of guidance and encouragement they have provided.

In my spare time, I do my best to support my kids and grandkids with their various activities, including horses, hockey, canoeing, and pets (cats, dogs, ducks). In the past, I have sat on many committees and boards associated with these activities. I have also been trying to reconnect with our language, attending as many of the weekly sessions with Aiden as I can.

Currently, I work for Sumas's Development Corporation subsidiary company, Sem:ath Management Services LP (SMSLP), as the Property Administrator. In this role, I provide operational support to SMSLP in property management and communications, foster relationships with current and new tenants, act as a communication link between membership and SMSLP, assist in planning events and meetings, support building and contract maintenance, and handle other administrative duties as required.

With over 20 years of indirect experience in property management, I have engaged in this field as a hobby across various settings and with diverse stakeholders. I have assisted in the negotiation of several leases for my family's CP property, from vetting the tenant to lease registration with the Nation.

In terms of education, I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology and a minor in Geography, along with certifications in communications, geographic information systems, transportation of dangerous goods, WHMIS, employment counseling, adult education, accounting and payroll, and I am halfway through my master's degree in business administration. I have a diverse skill set, which I often describe as being an "expert of everything, master of nothing." I am analytical, professional, possess excellent communication skills, outgoing, empathetic, and compassionate.

I would be honored to represent Sumas First Nation as a member of council for the 2025–2028 term. I believe in upholding values such as lifelong learning, hard work, honesty, integrity, and treating every member with respect and priority. Kw'as hó:y!

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Paula Olmstead – Housing Officer (Sumas First Nation)

Paula Olmstead, born in Abbotsford to Irene Silver (Miller) and Dr. Ray Silver Xaytèlq, is a proud mother, grandmother, wife, and aunt. At 55, she has been married to her husband, Owen, for 16 years but started the journey 30 years ago. Together they have a blended family of six adult children and six grandchildren, two of whom live with them. Family has always been a cornerstone of Paula's life.

Raised on reserve, Paula was deeply influenced by her parents, who instilled in her values of hard work, community service, and a strong connection to her Indigenous roots. From an early age, she was involved in volunteering and community boards, including her work with the elders group, fundraising, and events. Paula has also been actively involved with the Semá:th Longhouse for many years, stepping back in 2015 to allow younger generations to take the lead.

As a young mother, Paula fought for her rights to fish and hunt, challenging traditional expectations, and proudly continues to provide sustenance for her family while teaching the next generation the importance of these rights and the cultural protocols they carry.

Currently, Paula serves as the Housing Officer for Semá:th, a position she has held for the past four years. She has also assisted with Capital Public Works projects and has a background in health and administration within her Nation. In 2023, she earned her Housing Manager Certificate from Vancouver Island University and is currently pursuing an Indigenous Business Leadership Executive MBA through Simon Fraser University.

Beyond her professional work, Paula serves on several boards, including Tourism Abbotsford events advisory committee, Sto:lo Spa:th Matriarch advisor, and the Abbotsford Police Department Board of Directors (2021-2026). She has also served on the Xyolhemeylh Board for six years.

Paula's philosophy is rooted in family, education, and service. As a council candidate, she brings a wealth of experience and a strong passion for helping her community become self-sustaining and self-governed. Paula is committed to continuing the legacy of leadership and hard work that has shaped her life and looks forward to contributing to the future of Semá:th.

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KawKaLatsa – Sam Kelly – Renovation and Maintenance Supervisor (Sumas First Nation)

My name is Sam Kelly and my traditional name is Kwa-Ka-Latsa. I was born and raised here at Sumas. My parents are John Kelly Sr and Maureen Kelly. I am currently working at Sumas as the Maintenance Supervisor. I take pride in the hard work that we do for the community to ensure their needs are taken care of. Some of my hobbies include hunting, fishing and spending time with my 5 granddaughters.

My goals for Sumas are:

- Open door policy for all band members. Your voice matters.
- Work with our own band members – create business and job opportunities for Sumas members.
- 100% transparency for all Sumas members
- Taking care of our elders – working with the elders and community to make sure their voices are heard.
- Cash spending – all large spending is to be voted on by the members. We should know what our money is being spent on.
- Addictions – offering help and support to those suffering from addictions.
- Keeping Sumas safe – supporting the removal of dangerous people from the community that are not members.
- Upholding policies – fairness and equality for all.

In running for council, I am not only seeking to give back to the community that helped shape me into who I am today but also ensure that the next generation has the same opportunities for growth, success and pride in their culture. I believe in the importance of preserving and celebrating our culture while also embracing positive change and development for the future.

Protecting our people. Our land. Our culture.

Vote Samuel James Kelly for Council!



Sō'í:yel, Bea Silver For Chief

About Bea



Protectors of
Our Lands

Sō'í:yel, Beatrice Elaine Silver, of Semá:th First Nation, is a born leader. Her traditional name, gifted from her mother, means protector of our sacred lands. Bea has served as Chief of Semá:th and is an advocate for her home and her people. Bea has chosen the logo, “Protectors of Our Lands” for herself as that’s how she sees her journey.

Beatrice’s formal education includes a bachelor’s in education, a special education diploma, and a master’s in education from the University of BC.

Throughout her extensive career experiences, Bea has worked as a teacher, a counsellor, a Coordinator of UBC’s NITEP Teacher Education Program, a Faculty Advisor and Supervisor for Pre-Service Teachers, a university instructor, a University and Ministry of Education Program Advisor, an author, a District Administrator of First Nations Education for North Vancouver School District, and Chief of Sumas First Nation.

Bea plans to use the knowledge and experience gained from a lifetime of hard work and apply it to serving the community and families. Through strength and caring Bea hopes to carry the Semá:th members vision, mission, and values forward in a good way.

Semá:th First

Amongst her past accomplishments for the Semá:th community are the following:

- Reached an agreement with Sumas Mountain mining companies to honour their commitment to Semá:th.
- Installed a sidewalk and stop signs in partnership with the City of Abbotsford
- Implemented a 10 cents per ton on all gravel extorted fee to Semá:th (approx. \$60,000.00 monthly).
- Removed a company using Semá:th land as a toxic dump site.
- Oversaw the rebuilding our Longhouse with an Elders Committee in the lead.
- Settled a land claim; a small piece of expropriated land never used for a railway (\$1.2 million put into trust).
- Opened a men’s safe home with after treatment counselling. There was a dedicated drug & alcohol counsellor.

Bea's Goals

➤ **Transparency and Membership Involvement**

All major financial movements will involve our Membership. This includes the Economic Development Corporation. Most capital funds are filtered through the Economic Development Board of Directors. This must be monitored by our people!

➤ **Establishment of a Semá:th Advisory Committee**

A committee will be established to review and advise on Semá:th interests.

➤ **Reporting of Major Purchases and Funding**

All major purchases or funding including big equipment purchases will be reported to the SFN members, including why we need them and how we will use them.

➤ **Land Development**

Land development is a priority We desperately need: a multiplex building for events especially for our Youth and Elders who need their own space.

➤ **Specific Land Claims**

Governments have expropriated our lands for their own use disregarding the well being of Semá:th peoples, the lake was drained Semá:th people once bountiful suffered the consequences from draining the Sumas Lk offered: fish wildlife, traditional plants medicinal herbs.

Volunteer Portfolio

➤ **Environmental Causes**

Bea is working with SFN, group of lawyers, and West Coast Environmental Law to remove the toxic plant from the middle of our Semá:th community. This community does not need to tolerate this dangerous situation.

➤ **Cultural Awareness (First Nations)**

Bea aids in cross-cultural awareness of First Nations people to organizations both as a keynote speaker and a volunteer.

➤ **Sts'elemeqw Residential School Thrivers Society**

Bea established a society to assist residential school survivors. They seek out grants and host events to care for survivors and their families. Their vision is one for the future, "Guarding the Future by Healing the Past!"



Make Your Voice Heard on April 23rd

Supporting the vision and values of the Semá:th First Nation's community. Bea stands for:

~ACCOUNTABILITY~ ~HONESTY~ ~INTEGRITY~ ~TRANSPARENCY~

Vote for Bea Silver!