



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

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

# **Vote for Bea Silver!**