

Thlap'qwum Community Settlement Trust

CANDIDATE BIOS

The following candidates have submitted short bios in support of their candidacy:

Resident Trustee Candidates

Sandra Good

I am a proud member of Snuneymuxw First Nation. I have strong family values and am dedicated to my husband Peter, our children Wanda and Chris, and our three grandchildren.

I have served three terms on Snuneymuxw Band Council. With over 20 years of experience working for the Nation, I believe strongly in the spirit of giving back to my community. My strength as a long term visionary has been instrumental in bringing innovative programs and projects in the areas of Health and Social services.

I was one of the appointed first trustees to the Thlap'qwum Community Settlement Trust after the Trust Deed was signed in 2016, and I would like to continue in that role. I feel that the trust has great promise to create success for our community.

In addition to my 12 years of service on the Snuneymuxw Council, I have many years of experience as a member of several boards and committees (John Howard Society, Mental Health Association, and the SFN Justice & Safety Committee for Health), as well as experience working with several government levels. I have a Bachelor of Social Work degree and a Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Victoria.

Collette Jones

My name is Collette Jones. My mother is Marjorie (nee Modeste) of Cowichan, and my father is Colbert Good of Snuneymuxw. I am a PhD candidate in Education: Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Victoria, and an instructor at Vancouver Island University.

My work experience consists of teaching K-12 in band, public, and private schools. Currently, I instruct in Women's Studies at VIU and continue to create and develop Indigenous courses in the Humanities Department. My challenges and colonial education have caused me to rise and move forward and, most importantly, to build bridges through education and create a positive awareness of Indigenous people—for Indigenous and non Indigenous people—at a post-secondary level and create a better community within society as a whole. My role as an educator has given me the tools and skills to work with a diversity of people.

I am accountable and responsible for completing any project or assignment while serving others. Above all, I have strong leadership skills and I am positive, trustworthy, and committed to the work to at hand with integrity and honesty.

Resident Trustee Candidates (continued)

David Mannix

I live on SFN reserve No. 2. I have been retired for two years. I have the following experience with Trusts: CEO Coast Opportunity Funds (2008-2016); Director Island Coastal Economic Trust (2006-current); Currently on SFN (Thlap'qwum) Trust (1 year). Previously employed by SFN as Economic Development Officer: negotiations, training and employment, business development, intergovernmental agreements. I have enjoyed many years on the ocean-going canoe journeys.

Gary Xulsi'malt Manson

I am a retired commercial fisherman and sit as an Elder-in-Residence at Vancouver Island University, where I engage in discussion on reconciliation. I am involved in an Indigenous Philosophy course where I co-instruct. For six years, I worked as an elder with the House of Healing Program through Inter Tribal Health Authority and continue to work with them on various projects. I speak our Hul'q'umin'um' language and work with the First Peoples' Mentor-Apprentice Program teaching it. I have a passion for our language as I know it is struggling to survive.

I enjoy being active and involved in our community. I have coached both soccer and canoe pulling for over 40 years. I have done a lot of work in our longhouse and cultural events, including taking part in ten Tribal Journeys. I sat on council from 2004-2008, and am familiar with the political battles our people are up against. I consider myself a well-spoken elder and a person willing to speak my mind and heart for our people. I believe we need an elder as a trustee for balance. I am ready and willing to give our community the next four years of my life.

Margaret White

I am honoured to be nominated for Trustee. I have always had the best interest of our membership in my heart. I have worked for 30+ years for Snuneymuxw and have volunteered in our community for many years fundraising for our youth to participate in sports and their travel. I believe our membership deserves more. Getting a gym is a dream come true for me. That was one of my main focuses when my children were young. I have participated in our community sports: canoe pulling (my favourite), soccer, basketball, and softball. I have managed, as well as supported, our soccer, war canoe races, basketball, and lacrosse teams with lots of cheering.

I am very transparent and expect accountability for every expense. I do not take being a trustee lightly. I have worked in Finances for over 40 years. I have always ensured that everyone was accountable for their expenses and still do. Being accountable is very important to me.

Having been on the Trust Committee for a few months has been a learning experience and there is a lot of work yet to do. We have been working on getting our Investment Policy along with Chief and Council in place to earn as much interest as we can to benefit the membership.

I have my Business Management Diploma and am a Certified Aboriginal Financial Officer. My work history includes, Snuneymuxw – finance, Acting Health Director, Acting Band Manager, Program Coordinator for Aboriginal Health, H&R Block as a Tax Preparer, INAC – reception, Post-Secondary & Elementary and Finance Departments, currently working for Hul'q'umi'num Treaty Group as the Finance Coordinator and Hul'q'umi'num Fisheries Ltd Partnership as the Finance Officer. Should I be elected I will commit myself to be fair, open and transparent in decisions concerning the Trust.

Resident Trustee Candidates (continued)

Tracey Michelle White “Tsatassaya”

★Integrity ★Team Player ★Experience ★Knowledge of SFN

Family: Proud mother of Isabella White; Grandparents: Ellen Kwulasulwut White (née Rice), the late Doug White, Sr., and Oscar Thomas & Doris (née Hamilton); Parents: Doug & Joyce White

Education: University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, 2001; University Affiliations: Member of Delta Gamma sorority; Nanaimo District Senior Secondary, Grade 12 Graduating Class Valedictorian

Employment: Flight Attendant (1999–present), Air Canada; Events & Protocol Coordinator (1991-present); Coordinator, Aboriginal Participation Function, 2010 Winter Olympics, Vancouver Organizing Committee (2009-2010); Director of Protocol, Board of Governors (volunteer) 2014 BC Summer Games, Nanaimo; Land Claims Coordinator, Alliance Tribal Council 1991-1995.

Candidates for Non-Resident Trustee

Keith Atkinson, RPF

Keith is a member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and currently works as the CEO of the First Nations Forestry Council. He grew up in coastal communities while developing forest management skills from employment in the family business, Coast Forest Management.

Keith graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1994. Over twenty years in forest planning and management ranging from timber harvesting layout and design to pine mushroom management plans with the Nisga’a Lisims Government. Keith’s focus at FNFC is to assist and improve First Nations communities in their involvement and benefit from natural resource management.

Ken Graham

I am a proud member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. My family has a long history with the band. My mother was Charlotte Ellen Graham (nee Prest) and her mother was Lavina Prest (nee Wyse). I have over 35 years experience in all facets of accounting, finance, taxation, and audits, as well as supervisory and presentation skills. I am proficient in a variety of accounting and tax programs and have experience in Microsoft Office Suite. My work has lead me to develop skills in payroll, human resources, insurance, treasury, and finance.

I am reliable, trustworthy, and of good character. I am committed and prepared to invest the time and effort required to be a good and reliable trustee. You will find me honest, straightforward, and highly approachable. I am an active basketball referee for over 20 years now and currently officiate at the college level. I like to hike, play tennis, cycle, and enjoy travelling.

I will ensure the Trust is protected, risks are mitigated, and investments are secure. You can rely on me to ensure that the future of the Snuneymuxw First Nation is successful and the capital is preserved for generations to come. I hope to develop a strong network among the trustees as well as with the Council and Chief, and listen to the concerns and wishes of our community. I believe through careful planning and a collaborative approach, I can assist and provide leadership on strategic implementation and administration of the Trust. My goal is to assist in developing a clear roadmap, provide sufficient discussion, and administer the Trust in a transparent and accountable way.

Non-Resident Trustee Candidates (continued)

Vivian Hermansen

I am a member of the White family on my mother's side. My parents were Dave and Mildred Simpson. I live in Campbell River with my husband John. We have two sons, Brian and Ben, and a grandson, Brayden. I am an experienced educational leader and post-secondary administrator with 23 years experience working in Aboriginal Education. I have been a member of many professional committees over the years—local, provincial, and national; have managed multiple budgets; and am experienced in senior level policy and procedure. I recently came out of early retirement from North Island College and am presently the Executive Director for the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Tribal Council in Campbell River.

Samaya Jardey

My name is Samaya Jardey, daughter of late Phyllis Thomas (nee Wyse) and late Oscar Thomas. I commit to doing all I can to ensure the trust monies last into perpetuity for future generations. Just as the land was entrusted to us by our ancestors to take care of for our children and children's children, so too are the trust monies. As a trustee, I would:

1. Commit the time that is necessary to carry out the duties of a trustee, including being knowledgeable about being a trustee via Trustee Training, to attend meetings, and to carry out any assignments.
2. Be genuinely interested in what the Trust could do for Snuneymuxw, such as increase language learning efforts, improve overall health and wellness, and understand the importance of keeping Snuneymuxw membership informed about what our Trust money is doing through regular community meetings to educate and inform membership.
3. Understand the community concerns, its social and cultural needs, and be willing to communicate those needs to fellow trustees.
4. Be able to work with others with one heart and one mind, to reach a common goal.
5. Be open-minded, intellectually curious, and respectful of the opinions of others.
6. Have the courage to plan creatively and direct effective implementation of those plans.
7. Withstand pressures and prejudices that may arise that could restrict or prevent equality for all.

Robert D. Nelson

Not available at this time.

Rick Peterson

I obtained my Certified Management Accountants (CMA) designation in 1999, and hold the designation of CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant). I was Accounting Supervisor with the Fairwinds Group, Nanoose Bay. My experience with Fairwinds includes supervision of accounting staff and analysis and recommendations regarding variances. I analyzed revenue variances, as well as cost, volume, cash flow, labour, budget, profit, and other variances. I also prepared the budget for the golf course, restaurant, Schooner Cove marina and hotel (including the hotel's restaurant and pub). One of my job duties was preparing the cash flow budget. This was submitted to head office in Vancouver and was the basis of a monthly cash draw from head office to the Fairwinds Group. This experience gives me the ability to analyze any business investment proposal that comes before the board. My education gives me the knowledge and understanding of market investment decisions and why the trust funds are invested as they are. I will endeavour to make decisions that fit the goals and objectives of the Thlap'qwum Community Trust so that any decisions made are to the benefit of all members of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. We can do great things with the resources the Community Trust has provided. I will strive to do my best.