



Neil Okabe

My name is Neil Okabe and I am a direct descendant of Esther Seymour, Maude Roberts and Mae Ada Wesley. I was given the right to wear the honorable title Sm'oogyit Ko'om at a stone moving feast on November 3rd, 2018 where our Ganhada house was raised after nearly 100 years of inactivity. I am proud that our house was able to accomplish this huge task as we are now poised to support not only our house membership but also the cultural well-being of our community.

Having never lived at Kitsumkalum it has always been my goal to live on our homelands and where possible seek employment in an area that looks to better the lives of our membership. I've since achieved the employment aspect whereby I currently administer Kitsumkalum's housing program, however there is much more to housing than meets the eye. As a local housing program we as a community need to constantly seek additional housing, address much needed renovation funding and ultimately continue to seek future residential sub-division development. However, the bottom line is we need to continue to work toward a healthy and self sustaining housing program.

As a Nation we are on the cusp of determining our future, are we ready? Are we self sufficient?, can we rely on our current economies in order to NOT rely on limited government funded programs. I suggest that we must continue to pursue economic opportunities that bring monetary return, training and education, employment and (of most importance) longevity.

As a member of Kitsumkalum council I will promote and support transparency as well as financial accountability, in particular amongst our program departments. We should not seek to overspend to achieve success, but rather develop successful programs by securing full external funding support.

Education is the future of our people. As a community it is important that we continue to support cost effective infrastructure development and academic programs that allow for advancement for our people. As a tradesman I support post secondary training whereby on successful completion our people are NOT faced with hurdles to attain employment.

My past education achievements and employment experience give me the confidence to stand for election. On February 21th, 2019 I ask for your support.