



Troy Alexander Sam for Chief

VOTE in the Kitsumkalum Election February 21st, 2019

I support a Kitsumkalum that engages the youth and continues to make them a priority. I support a Kitsumkalum that emphasises teamwork that will move Kitsumkalum forward in economic prosperity, capacity building and growth for all members. We will achieve these goals by engaging the band council, staff, and community to gain insights from all perspectives to create a roadmap to a prosperous community. I see a growing Nation with a future rooted in traditional knowledge. One that engages the youth and emphasises community unity. Support of our traditional territories must continue and will continue.

I served six terms on the Kitsumkalum Band Council as a councillor since 2007. Respect and dignity for all is a top priority for me when it comes to governing administration. In matters affecting Kitsumkalum I am not afraid to ask for help. All council members will have a voice and share in the work to be done. Administration would be fully inclusive and collaborative in matters of governance.

Born to Carol and Maurice Sam in 1978, I am a first generation Kitsumkalum member. I have always been close to my matrilineal grandparents Don and Mildred Roberts and patrilineal grandparents Eric Sam, Margaret Bent and Smith Bent.

Grandpa Don and Grandma Mildred shared many stories from the coastal areas - the challenges, and traditional knowledge. The stories shared how they survived off the land during a time of no social safety net - oolichan fishing up the Ecstall, cranberry picking at Ts'm Klax Moolks, seaweed picking at Lax Spa Suunt, trapping in Bakers inlet, harvesting cockles down at Kumeleon, crab fishing at Mud bay, sockeye fishing at Kwinitsa, hunting up and down the Ks'yen. I recall these stories as I take part in harvesting and help to reestablish our presence in key areas such as Arthur Island and Ecstall.

The late Soonatz (Clifford Bolton) came and talked with our fifth grade class in 1988 about his role as Chief for Kitsumkalum. He left a lasting impression on me that inspired my interest in politics.

1992 was a key year as that was the start of the larger scale youth program in Kitsumkalum. Monday we would have language class taught by Grandma, Tuesday was craft night led by Joan Cooley, Thursday night was Jr Firefighters night led by Ernie Gerow and Don Cooley and Friday night was Games night. I am happy to see the Kitsumkalum Youth Group be rekindled in recent years and commend the time and effort our community members put forth in the younger generation.

Being active in the community since youth has taught me the importance of:

Culture

Our community's Tsimshian identity. We are the owners of key areas that has helped us survive since time immemorial. We have proof beyond reasonable doubt that we own these areas. I don't claim to have full knowledge of these key areas, but we have many talented staff that has access to this information.

Team Work

One can ask anybody in our community about past experiences, and almost every story will involve logging. Stories where there is much give and take, of night shifts, working in the winter, and problem solving. As long as everybody is working towards the same goal, it does not matter how big or small of a part you play.

Volunteering

Helping where it is needed, and the fun to be had prepping for events like the Salmon BBQ. It was a huge part of Kitsumkalum in the past with my generation stepping up to take the lead. We established the Kitsumkalum Events Committee that successfully serves the community in various ways. The time we take to assist our elders and youth creates a sense of community and unity.

Youth

Youth is a key part of our community, as they are our future. We need to engage our youth, show them our areas on the coast, pass down our teachings and help them transition to be prepared to take the torch.

Elders

Elders are our connection to the past. They show us how we survived off the land, and teach us why we are where we are.

I started working for the band in July of 1993 as a summer student and worked with various departments over the years: Health, Treaty, Tempo, and Kalum Ventures.

Working with KVL I started out counting trees, worked up to engineering, reconnaissance, harvest supervision, waste and residue, regen delay surveys, and finally free to grow. We achieved SAFE certification for Kalum Ventures Ltd. in 2008 and every year since. Our duty is to develop policies to aim for our goal of zero workplace accidents. SAFE certification also allows KVL the opportunity to bid on BC Timber sales wood, and bid on other provincial contracts. This year's safety audit received a 100% score.

I have worked with the federal government, Statistics Canada, and the RCMP. I have also worked in the private sector gathering data for public opinion polls on government policy. I pursued Science with a post-secondary education at the University of British Columbia and Northwest Community College. I was fortunate enough to train in Regina at the RCMP Depot division in 2001. In 2015 I received my Construction Safety Officer certificate.

I currently sit on the Aboriginal Affairs Committee for the Truck Loggers Association representing an Indigenous voice in the North. As a committee member I will promote harvesting at a sustainable level so the benefits can be felt for generations to come. I will also address the challenges we have in B.C. such as the labour shortage. All industries are evolving and we need to stay in tune to these changes.

I served two terms on the Kitsumkalum Housing Committee, taking a proactive approach to the housing issues.

I'm enjoying my time on the Lands Committee working with the team and community on a draft Land Code for Kitsumkalum - one that reflects the community's values and interests. I joined the committee to help Kitsumkalum transition towards a self-sustaining and self-governing role in land and resource management.

Let's work together towards a prosperous Kitsumkalum rooted in traditional knowledge.

To those running for council, I commend you for keeping your name in and showing interest in our community. T'oyaxsut'nüün (thank you) to my nominators for this opportunity.

With respect and gratitude,
Troy A. Sam

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