



*Don Roberts for Kitsumkalum Band Chief –
Finish the Job*

My name is Don T. Roberts / Simoogit Wiidildal Waap Lagaax Gisbutwada. I was born on the Tsimshian Coast in Prince Rupert Harbour, Lagaax matriarchic Gisbutwada, my mother is Mildred Roberts from Kitsumkalum / Spokeshute / Ecstall / Marine Coast, my dad was from the Ganhada from Kitsumkalum / Skeena River / Ecstall River / Kwinita / Spokeshute and Tsimshian Marine Coast. I have been connected to the Tsimshian Nation culture my whole life.

Being in the Commercial / food fishing industry, trapping / hunting I learned the lands and waters of the territories in Skeena / Ecstall Rivers and Marine Coast / Prince Rupert Harbour. I carry a lot of history that was told to me by my elders.

I was a Kitsumkalum Councilor for 10 years before becoming an elected Band Chief in 2007. I did this to defend our place at Mid-Lower Skeena River and Marine Coast. During 2017 Kitsumkalum election I was considering if I should run, when my oldest uncle said: the worst will happen, others will not carry the knowledge you carry and can't speak up out there, and a Kitsumkalum Sigidmhana'nax spoke: it's a long hard road and you are near the top of the hardest part, the people who are holding Kitsumkalum back will be there; I should finish the job fighting for our place on the coast, and that's why I'm running for chief again. I am here to finish the job.

-Under my leadership Kitsumkalum purchased 383 Acres of fee simple lands, from the Billabong property and two large parcels at Port Essington, from Port Edward waterfront and to the Kasiks Wilderness Resort and more. Some parcels were bought for economic opportunities, some because they were traditional Kalum sites.

-Kitsumkalum is now a Land Code community so that we can manage our own reserve lands without seeking permission from Canada.

-Kitsumkalum has signed an Ocean Reconciliation Framework Agreement with Canada to participate as a full member on collaborative management of our marine lands and waters.

-I have negotiated several Impact Benefits Agreements, for example with Alta Gas on Ridley Island, with LNG Canada in Kitimat and an LNG revenue sharing agreement with BC.

-Kitsumkalum's Traditional Territory and treaty map now includes the lower Skeena, Lakelse area and our coastal lands, when I started it was limited to the Kalum Valley. We are now near the end of stage 5 where there is a real tough fight to include Kitsumkalum territories of the four Waap groups, BC and Canada hope to have Kitsumkalum territory lands by summer / fall 2021. All Kitsumkalum lands are high IMPORTANCE to this Chief. We do not ask permission.

-Kitsumkalum's new 14-million-dollar school is scheduled to be built this spring 2021.

-Kitsumkalum had negotiated dollars from BC LNG and LNG Canada for paving all our village streets,

-Kitsumkalum's new administration office complex at the old Billabong site is at feasibility stage now. This will determine the size and plans for future growth.

-Housing is going well, another 8 units will be built this year 2021.

-The Kitsumkalum logging/forestry economic department still needs to follow in line with the Kitsumkalum new policies and follow procedures.

-Kitsumkalum Covid -19 team and the Kitsumkalum Health Department involvement had much of a stressful period trying to keep the community safe and still are, thank you all.

Kitsumkalum overall is doing very well, what I – Don Roberts as a Chief am asking for, is to finish the job with Kitsumkalum Treaty Lands and to support me in achieving the Skeena & Ecstall River's and Marine Coast Lands and finish Negotiations with the Prince Rupert Port Authority land and a fair share of economic revenue IBA agreements with CNR and industry in our territory.

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Don Roberts