



James Cooley For Chief Councillor

“Transparency and Approachability in all Levels of Governance”

I am honored for the nomination and for the opportunity to lay out my platform and my vision for moving our community forward. I am posting regularly on the Kalum Crowd Facebook page so please check that out.

I will use my proven leadership experience to begin a new path of inclusive and collaborative decision making with your chosen council. Transparency creates trust which I believe is a vital part of any level of leadership.

I will not assume to have the solution to all the issues facing our community members. There are some things that may seem insignificant to some but are very important to others. I will not promise that we can resolve all problems to everyone’s satisfaction, but I do promise that we will address and not dismiss any concerns as unimportant.

There are many issues currently facing our community. We need to have the best people working on our behalf as their knowledge will be invaluable when choosing a path forward. Some of these key concerns include pressure on the coast with our traditional territories, housing and infrastructure, expanding economic development and employment, fish and wildlife, and a review of our current governance policies.

I know that one of more divisive issues of this election are the treaty negotiations. I would just like to put it out there that I voted yes to AIP, but I really believe that we need so much more reassurance that treaty will improve our lives. That said, we have a strong negotiation team in place that is aggressively negotiating on our behalf. I do not know how I will vote on the final agreement that is presented to our people, but I do believe that we are currently a long way from an acceptable final agreement.

While it is essential to ensure that our current businesses are managed in the most effective way, we must also actively pursue all new business and employment opportunities. A new administrative will employ a multitude of strategies to encourage new businesses. Some of these ideas include information sessions on starting your own business, investigating federal & provincial grants on clean energy initiatives that will create training and jobs, welcoming new agreements with corporations that support our stewardship of our lands and will benefit our communities.

In closing, all members of our community both on and off reserve, are entitled to respect, transparency, and consultation on all matters of governance and our traditional lands and rights.

If you want change, I can build that foundation of future success.