



Hello Kitsumkalum Band Members,

My name is Wayne Bolton. My mother is Victoria Roberts and my father is James Bolton. I would like to thank those who nominated and seconded my nomination to run for Band Council again. I have always felt it to be an honour to serve the community as a Band Councillor.

I have learnt the value of hard work from both my parents. Even though my father passed away when I was ten, my mother told me that he was a hard worker, mostly as a commercial fisherman. When growing up, my mother was always busy working two or three jobs at a time.

Even in the later years, when she was managing the House of Sim-oi-Ghets, she was busy fundraising, shopping for kid's gifts and setting up the Kids' Christmas party. I've always thought it funny that my mother and Mildred could organize the Halloween and Christmas parties for the community, but without them, it takes a committee of volunteers to carry on their work. I'm not afraid to say their strong work ethic and community involvement rubbed off on me. I've been on a few committees for; Comprehensive Community Planning, Olympic Torch Relay, Land Code and the Events Committee.

If you want to connect with the community, you just have to come out and volunteer for an event. The volunteers always seem to laugh as they work, I like that. One of the best experiences I have had as a committee member was with the Comprehensive Community Plan committee. The meetings were the best, they had the highest turn out by community members and council members for events and online survey feedback. It was great that the members were able to give direction on what they wanted in the community.

I have always thought the relationship is a two-way street, the Band Council is elected for a job, but the Band Members give direction. One of the best ways to do this is to take part in community meetings and events. Come out so we can hear your voice and improve this community. Don't be afraid to ask questions or voice concerns. It is the only way things are going to change.

One of the things my mother told me was when the organization chart for the Kitsumkalum Band was being created, she said at the top are the Band Members, on the next level is the Band Council. They have one employee, the Band Manager. The next levels are managers and workers. She always told me the Band Members direct their Council on what they want to see in the community.

I have been learning our language, our culture comes with that. I am happy that the Band Council is always wanting input from the Hereditary Chiefs and Matriarchs, we need that knowledge to continue to grow. I look forward to when we can have community meetings and dinners again. I look forward to when we can have a feast to celebrate or recognize the passing of family so we can heal together.

I have been on council for seven terms. I have learnt that when we deal with the government on anything, it takes time. Council listens for the Band Member needs. Something as simple as streetlights takes time, but we are working on it. We heard the need for paved roads and even though we now have some of the resources to make this a reality, it is taking time. Concerning housing, we are looking at different options so we can add houses and bring more Band Members home. I am glad to see that Kitsumkalum Band has grown with employment opportunities. If you can, take advantage of training programs or education funding, it improves your situation and Kitsumkalum's overall worth. In 2020 our Employment and Training program helped over 150 members, from work gear to paying for trades certifications for youth and adults. We tried to help off-reserve with pandemic relief, we're limited but hope it helped offer some financial relief.

As mentioned, this is a two-way street. No matter who is elected to the Band Council, make sure you go to meetings (once safe to again), get informed and help give direction on what kind of community you want to live in.

Make sure to vote and be heard. T'oyaxsut 'nüün (Thank you)