

Tseshaht First Nation Council Election 2020 Profile: Bella Fred



My name is Bella Fred, née Joe. I was raised in Port Alberni by two wonderful parents: Late Judy Joe, née Dick, (whose parents were Veronica Dick, née Gus originally from Squamish and Thomas Dick from Tseshaht); and Late Herbert Joe, (whose parents were Bella Joe, née Watts originally from Tseshaht and Wilson Joe from Huu-ah-aht). I reside in the Tseshaht community with my husband, Thomas Fred, and our three children: Brenden, Ashley and Jasmine.

My education and employment background include accounting and social development and health. I began my education at North Island college where I completed my Certificate in Business Administration, which then lead to completing a Diploma in Business Management (Accounting option). After completing my diploma at North Island College, I continued my education at Malaspina University College (now called Vancouver Island University) and obtained by Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Business Administration (Accounting stream).

After college, I worked at the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council office for nine years. I worked as the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) clerk for about five and a half years where I learned about the NIHB programs such as vision care, medical supplies and equipment, patient travel, pharmacy and Non-insured Mental Health benefits. I then worked as an NTC Nursing Program Administrative Assistant for nearly three and a half years where I learned about the Community Health and Home and Community Care Nursing Programs.

I then went to work at the Tseshaht First Nation Administration office for nearly eight years. I began working there as the Social and Health Administrative Assistant where I processed income assistance benefits, and for a short time, medical travel. I excelled in the Income Assistance Program and was able to grasp a very strong understanding of the program. This lead to working as the Acting Social Development Administrator and then the Program Manager for Social Development and Health. I have extensive experience in the social and health program areas as each job I've held progressively built on each other; and, it has provided me with sound knowledge of these program areas. It was a great pleasure to work for the community at the Tseshaht Administration Office.

Having accounting as my education background has been a great asset in being able to perform my job duties in all the jobs I have held. I have always enjoyed working in the field of accounting, which lead to a difficult decision to leave my employment at Tseshaht First Nation to accept a position in the accounts payable department at the Nuu-chah-nulth USMA office, where I have been employed since December 2019.

It is an honour to be nominated, and to accept the nomination, for Tseshaht First Nation Council Election 2020. It would be an even greater honour to work for the community, in a new capacity as part of Council, to work collaboratively with the other elected council members, to continue working towards a healthy and vibrant community.