



Ken Watts for Tseshaht Elected Council 2020

My name is Wahmeesh (Ken Watts) and I am the eldest son of the late George Watts and my mother is Matilda Atleo. I am married to Priscilla and we have three children: Tristan, Noelani and Kailand. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in First Nations Studies from Vancouver Island University.

I was born and raised in Port Alberni and have lived most of my life in our community. Through my formal education, the experience I have gained throughout my career and the cultural teachings I have been raised with and continue to learn have all lead me to this path. I am passionate about this work and want to work with our community and leadership to achieve our goals and address our priorities as Tseshaht.

PAST

Recent roles: Tseshaht Elected Council: 2017-2020, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) Vice-President 2012-2017, Island Health Authority (formerly VIHA), Board Member 2018-2020, and Consultant and owner/operator of Noakai Indigenous Consulting(2017-Present)

PRESENT (*Recent success stories while on Council*):

No one person can do things alone, but as a team we can accomplish anything and as the Council lead on the following projects **WE AS TSESHAHT** were able to accomplish:

- Opened Orange Bridge Cannabis, the first Indigenous Nation owned licensed retail cannabis store in all of BC which has led to job creation for members and the first Nation owned business along the highway in over **30 years!**
- Secured over \$100,000 in grants to create the Tseshaht language department in 2019/2020
- Creation and opening of the Language House in memory of our late language warrior
- Negotiated Huu-ay-aht and Tseshaht Economic Protocol Agreement
- Negotiated a protocol agreement with the Port Alberni Port Authority
- Negotiated a Government-to-Government accord with the City of Port Alberni
- Creation of jobs and revenue through a lease and partnership from value added sawmill on our land at Bell and Hector road
- Secured a lease and revenue from the billboards along the highway
- Gaming revenue plan/wish list exercise for 2019/2020 fiscal year which addressed elders care, longhouse renovations, tearing down of the Somass Hall, policy development, and BGI Trips

FUTURE (**Election Platform**)

1. **Planning**- Ratify our Comprehensive Community Plan, develop a community 4-year strategic plan for Council's term within the first six months of the new term, develop other plans and strategies such as forestry, economic development, fisheries, community safety and report back to community on the progress of those plans on a regular basis.
2. **Governance**- Work with community to finalize our Custom Election Code which determines how we elect Council and Governance Manual which addresses how we govern. We must update, create, and finalize policies to address gaps (finance, housing etc.).
3. **Deliver** – No plan or process will be successful if we do not deliver. I believe through our work together we can deliver to create new relationships with governments, businesses, and make improvement to relationships that have seen recent challenges.
4. **Communication/Accountability/Transparency**- I have reported in the past and will in the future, but we all need to do a better job reporting/communicating to Tseshaht membership and create more of a Tseshaht presence across all our territory.



Phone: 250-720-6100 Email: k_watts@live.ca or reach me on Facebook
**If you would like to see a list of current projects I am working on, please feel free to contact me or check out our August band bulletin/newsletters.*

X Ken Watts

