

Harley Wylie -TFN Election Nominee Profile 2020

My mom Eva Thomas and grandfather Alex Thomas were Tseshaht. Mom moved us to Tseshaht in 1963, shortly before she died. We were raised by my uncle Bob Thomas and aunt Rose Thomas. Tseshaht was heaven compared to living and growing up in a racist USA. I was fortunate to become friends with people like the late Larry ("Bugsy") Gus, Barry Gus, JP Jones (in AIRS at the time) and others. I have great memories of playing basketball for Tseshaht against AIRS in the old barn, other sports at "The Backfield" (Haahuupayak), of being in Port Alberni Boxing Club, chosen to box publicly along with the late Pete Tatoosh, Dixie Watts; many good memories in sports and our rez'.

In the 70's I left for Camosun College, completed grade 10, 12 and 1st year university. During 1st year I became a single parent, and was chosen to work as a Project Officer at Employment Development Branch (now called HRDC) so didn't return to get a degree. I don't regret my decision to be a single parent.

For over 40 years I have: 1) worked in government program funding administration; 2) non-profit societies delivering program services: and 3) in governance as a board/council member for different societies. And I worked with people of different cultures in social justice initiatives, accredited education curriculum, Asian/First Nation book and video and other Indigenous and inter-cultural initiatives. There are others that want to, and will, work with us.

My mix of education, experience on/off-reserve, in government/non-profit/private sector, with/for different cultures will be of benefit representing Tseshaht in dealings with City Hall, ACRD, PAPA etc. and local major employers and the general public in this fair (?) city. There are many stakeholders to maneuver our way through; my experience and comfort with the process is an asset – Tseshaht is a major stakeholder and it is time to make that clear.

When working as TFN administrator it was clear we have staff with ability, experience and important knowledge of our culture and history (and history with local stakeholder issues) who greatly assisted me in important meetings with the City, ACRD etc., and worked well as a TFN team when given the opportunity. Competent staff deserve credit and opportunity to move Tseshaht forward.

Our community wants and deserves information on activities, finances, opportunities, and regular reports. I have provided reports and as much of that as I was able to in the past, and will continue to do that and more in the future. The community members are the shareholders in our businesses, and our governance activities. In my first government job my supervisor's belief was that he understood being a civil servant to mean the public paid the taxes for him to have a job serving them, and that he was to be civil when providing service.

Tseshaht community must have more say in community agenda items, more information and input on important opportunities and decisions and more support for youth. So, I see my role on council to serve our community and for our community to have more say and give direction. That is how it is supposed to be. That is what I offer, experience, fairness, reporting, community getting its voice back and giving direction given to leadership. I will serve Tseshaht. I will work on a personal blog to share more information. Klecko.