

Hello Everyone,
Weytk Xwexweytep

My name is Andrea Gilbert, daughter of Amelia & Theresa Pop and Joe Pop. I was raised by them since I was 3 - 6 months old, out at Soda Creek (Xatśúll). I currently live in Deep Creek (Cmetem), been here for most of my life.

My biological parents were George Abbey Sr., and Ella (Ellen) Gilbert. I have 3 adult children and 3 granddaughters.

I have spent my life assisting people with their wellness and working on my own. I worked for Nenqayni Treatment Centre, now Wellness Centre, since the early 90's. I have also worked for Soda Creek in many capacities: Secretary/Receptionist, Treaty Assistant, Education Assistant, Xatśúll Heritage Village Events Manager, Drug & Alcohol Worker, and Social Assistance Coordinator. I have also had the honour of driving the Soda Creek Bus for the Elders, Children, and Community Members to various activities.

I went to University and worked towards my BA in Psychology. I made it to my 3rd year with some 4th year courses but returned home due to family and financial obligations. I have worked hard all my life but took a couple years off to deal with Health issues and spend time with my family. It has been a great couple of years. I looked after my granddaughter, Reign, when my daughter went back to work this past year, so 12 hour work days are a norm for me.

I do believe we need to move forward in our futures. We have chosen to go the Treaty route, I respect that. As long as Treaty will benefit our future generations, I will continue to support the process. Mining and Forestry are also a part of our future as well as Tourism. With Forestry and Mining I know we have had a bumpy road. I do feel we need to continue, albeit with Best Practices to protect our land, wildlife, fish, and our people.

Educating our people is also another top priority. Preparing future generations for jobs in all areas is vital to creating a strong nation after Treaty.

I believe in my Mom Theresa's Philosophies, one of which was 'If you do not have enough for all, do not share it to only a chosen few. I took that as 'treat everyone fair and equal. I loved Mom Theresa and 'Pe7e Joe's teachings as I am sure you all did too. I look forward to serving our people should you choose me to be your Kukwpi7 (Chief)

Yours in Wellness,

Andrea.