

Nominated for: Chief

Name: Sharon Kenoras (Sandy Sellars)

Date of Elections: January 22, 2017

Campaign Presentation.

My Family:

Father: Herman Sellars
Mother: Bernice Sellars (Michel)
Brother: Kelly Sellars, Wesley James Sellars (deceased)
Sisters: Karen Sellars, Sally Sellars, and Mary Sellars (deceased)
Husband: John Kenoras (deceased) Adams Lake Indian Band
Children: Reylene Kalal (Sellars), Sarah-Lynn Harding, Mathew Sellars
Adopted daughter: Jonnine Kenoras

First, I want to thank Willow George and Jamie Baldwin for nominating me for Chief. This means a lot to me, because it tells me that you see something in me that will bring a positive contribution to our community.

Family:

I have always been proud of my family and where I come from. I love and respect all of you. It is a blessing to be a member of the Xats'ull community. Growing up at Deep Creek wasn't always easy for any of us, but brought it out the desire in me to seek knowledge of who I am, and what I am a part of. I strive to be the best at everything, but also, I strive to protect our future.

My goal is to use all the knowledge, training, education, work experience, and life experience to make things better for all of us. It is important to me to protect what we have, and yet there needs to be a balance for people to support their families. So, we need to work together all of us as a family.

Community:

I've read the Comprehensive Community Plan and the Community Input.

There are a lot of issues and concerns for both Soda Creek and Deep Creek. All of them are achievable.

I would like to make a strategy for resolving all of them, but I will need support from the community to do this. Everyone of us has special skills, knowledge and experience and putting them altogether it can be done. Direction from our Elders is important to me.

My main concerns are Water and the Emergency Planning. We must come up with a solution that will benefit everyone. I say we because, we are all in it together. Keeping in mind that families still need to be self-sufficient. Training and Jobs are important, but we need water too, we need our forests to be healthy and managed properly. WE need trained and certified people for dealing with natural disasters, but mainly the band members need to be recognized by the Province as local experts.

Right now, we have a Professional Forester who is a Band Member, she is an expert on the Natural Resources. We have a band member who dedicated her time and efforts to Traditional Land Use and History of the land use. We have loggers, and band members who know about gardening, and band members who can build houses, we have mothers who like to just be mothers, we have youth who need our direction, and get them involved in the community, encourage them to finish their education.

There are serious issues happening outside the community that affect us too. Like the new Water Act, this can be used to our benefit now. We can use that as a tool to negotiate for better Water resources for our homes. There are new Lands Management initiatives that we can take advantage of. Housing needs can be solved as well.

There are new Human Rights Laws in place to support First Nations across the country in basic human needs, and conservation needs.

To every problem there is a solution. I am a very optimistic person and I strive to find solutions. The list of issues that are important to us is long, but we can solve it.

Some of my strengths are: I have sacred knowledge and belief in our Secwepemc Traditions, Language, Culture and History. I can teach our youth how to build a sweat lodge and to run ceremonies. As well, I know people who know people. No one person can say they know everything, but if you know someone with specific knowledge that is half the battle in problem solving.

Band Administration:

This is already in place and there are policy's and by-laws governing the band. I wouldn't try to fix something that isn't broken.

My Goal of Chief:

1. To reconnect with my family of Soda Creek and Deep Creek.
2. To share my knowledge, education, training, work experience and cultural knowledge to the community.
3. To share in the work that needs to be done for the benefit of us all. Promote the Youth.
4. Propose solutions to the issues that concern you.
5. There are bully's out there in the world, and I don't like bully's. I will stand up for you, and our community.
6. Set up an economic plan. Band members need jobs, housing, education, so, the first thing I will do is identify what we have already, what we need and then make a work plan to just get things done.
7. I will work to earn your respect. I know I have your love already, which means everything to me.
8. Wherever possible I will work to having our members hired first. There is Salvage Logging going on right now, those contracts need to come to Soda Creek people first.
9. There is funding available for Water Management Planning, we can access these funds to make sure our members have water in their homes. To me it's a human right first. No cow or pig is more important than our people when it comes to having access to water.
10. There are opportunities now to work with Mines. I will work towards a positive working relationship with Industry, Provincial and Federal agencies. This would mean accessing resources for the community, to create training and jobs. But, more importantly to come up with a Joint Lands and Resource Management plan.

Finally, I will dedicate myself to the community. I know I can't make promises, but, I can make a commitment to doing everything possible for the health and well being of Soda Creek and Deep Creek.

I love you all, have a very Merry Christmas and may Santa surprise you with many great gifts. Sandy...