

# Georgie-Ann Sam

For **Youth Councilor**

**Selkirk First Nation**

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Georgie-Ann Sam (my Traditional Name is *Nuhuhawa*) and I am running for the Youth Council Seat of this election. My heritage is of the Northern Tutchone People; I am a member of the Crow Clan. My grandmothers are Rhea Sam from Carmacks and Elizabeth (Silverfox) Hall from the Upper Pelly River. My late biological grandfathers are George Johnny from Fort Selkirk and Dick Stubb from Hanna, Alberta who I sadly never had the chance to meet due to their passing. My mother is Georgina Sam and my father is Jimmy Hager who were both raised on our traditional land of Pelly Crossing. My parents had four children, the youngest being Maverick Sam, Jacy Sam, Shandal Sam making me the oldest of my siblings whom I love very much.

I was born and partially raised in Whitehorse, Yukon having lived in various places throughout my childhood. This included Pelly Crossing where I lived with both of my grandmothers who taught me about our traditional values at a young age.

At the age of eight, I moved back to the City of Whitehorse where I grew up in various Foster Homes. It was incredibly tough being away from my family, having to endure many 'ups and downs' as a Foster Child but I have managed to only take the good experiences with me. With this being said, it doesn't mean that I devalue the difficulties that came with the role that I played because I understand that without them, I wouldn't be the person that I am today.

My Native Name means 'Hard Worker' which is what many describe me to be. During high-school, not only did I strive to excel in my classes but I also volunteered for Community Events and worked part-time as a Librarian. With hard work and dedication, I earned my Grade 12 Diploma at the Eliza Van Bibber School in 2011. Since then, I had many opportunities to work in various industries, with many different personalities, and I believe that I have gained many skills that would help me and many others in our future endeavors. I have been working at Minto Mine since September 2015 as a Maintenance Clerk, later earning my very first promotion as a Junior Maintenance Planner (that I still hold the title of to this day). Education and Work Ethic are very important to me because I believe that they are qualities that offer a bright future.

As a youth member of our community, I have seen the challenges that we face, and as the potential advocate on behalf of our youth, I strongly believe that our voices need to be understood. We need to treat our young people with respect and integrity by cultivating positive qualities that will ensure a healthier lifestyle when they become young men and women. I would like to see diverse opportunities that will build upon the existing strengths of our future Northern Tutchone Leaders.

I have faith in different alternatives brought to the table by the community which might help broaden our horizons and keep the practice of *equality* among our people. Our ancestors lived rich intellectual lives with meaning and purpose. We need to find our purpose as individuals and work together to achieve our goals as a community. With this being said, our elders are of the most valuable historians of

our past and by implementing a working relationship between our elders and youth, we can learn how to live the 'Traditional way of Life' and the 'Modern way of Life.' We are the legacy of a powerful tradition and need to work together to protect our livelihood as First Nation People. I would like to see *unity* among our Northern Tutchone People of different communities so that we can learn different teachings and structures. We need to be the example of what we want to see and, "Say what we mean and do what we say."

"Everyone thinks of changing the world but no one thinks of changing himself." ~ Leo Tolstoy

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Georgie-Ann Sam