



Vote

AMY SILAS JOHNNY

For Wolf Councilor





February 2017

Good day to Everyone...Gemme Sothan! HELLO!

My name is Amy Johnny (Nee: SILAS) and I am a proud member of Selkirk First Nation. I am a member of the Wolf Clan and the daughter of the former Martha Silas (Nee: Jonathan) and David Silas. I am the granddaughter of Big Jonathan and Susan Phillips Campbell. I am proud to say that my grandfather, Big Jonathan was a long-term Chief of the Selkirk people who at the time, mostly lived in Fort Selkirk. Although some of my siblings have passed, I still have one brother Norman and three sisters: Velma, Christine and Carlene. I have many nieces and nephews whom I have regular contact with as their Aunty!

I am married to another Selkirk member, David Johnny. I have two sons, David and Darcy and my youngest child is a daughter named Angell. Together, we have eight grandchildren. I was brought up in a traditional lifestyle within the David Silas family and have continued this extensively within my own family. We practise our culture in our daily activities and I continue to talk about these practises and beliefs with Selkirk Elders that were given to me by my parents.

It is my strong belief that if we all work together, we can make our community better but this cannot happen if we live in conflict. I was taught by my Elders that if you want to make things better, you need to work with your people, no matter who it is and be fair in how you represent others. Our Elders are here to work with us and will provide the guiding strength and understanding. Our Elders are very precious and it is one of the most important things a leader can do is to protect our Elders and improve their lives if our own culture is going to survive.

While our Elders are so important, we cannot forget our Selkirk young people! They are our future leaders and they need support if they are to become the leaders we need in our future. It is my strong belief that they must be included in any discussion about the future of Selkirk First Nation. It is only by including our youth and our Elders in these discussions with the rest of the membership that we can build a healthier community.

On the 13 October 2016, I was voted in as the Principle Elder. I am currently

employed by Selkirk First Nation as the Coordinator for the Homelessness Project being run in this community. It is my job to work with those in the membership who are in need. In the past, I have worked in the following positions which demonstrate my commitment:

- ◆ Parent Capacity Coordinator
- ◆ Health Promotion Officer
- ◆ CELC at Eliza Van Bibber School
- ◆ Cultural Activities Coordinator
- ◆ Supervisor on numerous short Term Projects such as the Beautification Project.

I made the decision to run for public office to serve my people in the role of Wolf Councilor because I believe that I possess the necessary qualifications to make me a good leader.

Some of these qualities are as follows:

- ◆ I was born and raised in the community of Pelly Crossing and have lived here all my life.
- ◆ I have a strong faith in the strength of the Selkirk people
- ◆ I care about my people and only want the very best for all of them
- ◆ I am a good listener and have a good sense of humour
- ◆ I am concerned about the people who have issues and who feel that they are being left behind
- ◆ I support Self Government and am familiar with our Agreements
- ◆ I believe in the power of numbers and that if we work together, we can build the kind of community where everyone has a voice and feel welcome
- ◆ I will always include the rest of the community who may not be SFN members because often they are married to members and have children who are SFN members
- ◆ I am not afraid to speak up when I disagree with others in a polite and respectful manner
- ◆ As a lifetime resident of this community, I feel that I have excellent knowledge about the issues within the community as many of these are matters I have also been personally involved and concerned about
- ◆ I talk to people of all walks of life about their experience in this community and I want to include everyone in the same way
- ◆ I have a strong commitment to the improvement of education for all our people.

I have been an ongoing student at Yukon College and have strived to improve my skills. I will continue to engage in furthering my education. I understand the difficulties many of our members experience as they try to do the same and I feel that those who have the desire to improve their lives need our full support as a nation. Education provides personal freedom.

As one who practises my culture, I am on the land regularly as I hunt and fish during harvesting seasons throughout our territory. I believe in the need to protect our land for our future generations. This will require working with everyone to do this including other governments. All people must be treated with dignity and respect even if there is a disagreement. It is important to reach consensus in our decision-making as is the Selkirk custom.

I am asking for your support as your Wolf councilor. I am a fair person who is concerned about the level of substance abuse that exists among our people. I will work to bring programs into the community that will result in the people having happier lives. I will have an open door policy that will encourage the people to bring their issues to my attention. I like to visit people where they live and work and I will use this to strengthen positive relationships. In this way, I hope to bring more unity to the community but I cannot do this alone. This will only come if we work together regard- less of clan or family. Everyone needs to be treated equally so that everyone is represented in the same way if we are ever to build the healthy community we need to not only strive but thrive. We need to use our his- tory and the words of those who have been here to make the changes and create the best where everyone feels included.

I look forward to working with everyone and to getting your support as we move forward.

Yours truly, in unity,
Amy Johnny