

# Vote Sharon Nelson

## CHIEF FOR SELKIRK FIRST NATION

Let's work together to keep Selkirk First Nation  
a successful and thriving First Nation.



## I believe in working together and building partnerships

My name is Sharon Nelson. I am running for the position of Chief for the Selkirk First Nation in the upcoming Election. I am a member of the Wolf Clan. My traditional name is 'Thāk téné'e te hindi' which means "eagle sitting looking around". My parents are the late Sarah Sims (Roberts) and Greg Sims. My grandparents are the late Maggie Baum and Luke Roberts. I was raised in Pelly Crossing and later moved to Whitehorse, then British Columbia to complete high school and college.

After completing college, I worked in administrative and management positions before returning home to Pelly Crossing in 1999.

As a Northern Tutchone citizen, my identity and culture is important. The teachings I received as a youth still remain with me today and I am very interested in learning more about our heritage. As a mother, the teachings and knowledge I have gained is now being passed down to my two boys. Now that they are getting older, they look forward to on-the-land opportunities with family at fish camps, ice fishing, rabbit snaring, grouse and gopher hunting and most of all, moose hunting season.

## Qualifications

Employed with Selkirk First Nation for 15 ½ years in senior level capacity

Deputy Chief 2002-2005

Knowledge of family structures

Knowledge of the history of Selkirk First Nation

Familiar with Self-Government & Final Agreements, SFN Constitution, laws & policies

A strong understanding of the role of Council and Government bodies



I care deeply about the wellbeing of our Nation and the wellbeing of our People and you can trust that my focus will always be on those two things. Let's move Selkirk forward in a respectful, positive manner.

## Our Culture - Our Language

We need to document our language and history to ensure it is not lost. We need to plan how we will revive it. One of this First Nation's biggest threats is losing our language. Let's use our Elders as they have the responsibility under our Constitution to *'ensure that the language, traditions, custom and culture of the Selkirk People are preserved and continued...'* I will learn along with everyone else and promise to always protect our language and culture because without it, we lose our identity. We should finish implementing the Education MOU with the Department of Education and lobby to have sustainable language and culture activities and Selkirk history being taught in the school.

We need to balance traditional ways with the modern ways of governance. According to Section 2.1 of the Self Government Agreement, *'2.1 The Selkirk First Nation has traditional decision-making institutions and practices and desires to integrate those institutions and practices with a contemporary form of government.'* We can look at traditional code of conduct for example and build that in to how we operate our governing bodies.

We need to build the knowledge of our culture, language, and Self Government Agreements in our Youth, as they are our future Leaders. Start with the young babies and their mothers. The little ones learn the most in their early years and these teachings will live with them for the rest of their lives. Involve all age groups from the young to the Elders. We are going to continue all the good programs that promote our culture and language, programs such as May Gathering, Aunties and Uncles Retreats.



**Calm, good listener, friendly,  
honest, hard worker, fast learner,  
reliable, caring, teacher, role  
model, willing to learn, neutral**

I have experience working in a team environment. I am able to think creatively and approach a problem sensibly. I can speak clearly and respectfully and lead group discussions. I have worked with a wide range of people (Elders, Youth, Government representative). I have represented Selkirk as a Senior Official on important issues and matters involving CYFN, other First Nations Governments and Canada and Yukon governments.

## Proven Track Record



I have worked for Selkirk First Nation for over 15 years. My years of experience working in Selkirk First Nation Government will help lead us in important discussions and decisions. I have a proven track record of having a strong work ethic and getting the job done.

I care deeply about the wellbeing of our Nation and the wellbeing of our People. As your Chief, you can be sure that my focus will always be on these two things. Let's move our First Nation forward in a respectful, positive manner.

## We are Steward of the Land

We will continue to monitor activity on our Settlement Lands and in our Traditional Territory, at all times assessing for possible threats to the environment and our food system. We will include the Elders to teach traditional land use and document our history for the future generations. Continue to negotiate a new funding agreement that will give us more development assessment dollars. At this time the Federal Government seems receptive to working with First Nations.

## A Government You Can Be Proud Of

Let's work together to ensure that the proceedings of all Governing Bodies are done in a transparent manner and reports made to the Assembly, as per the Selkirk First Nation Constitution.

Make **communications** a top priority with all Citizens. We will do our part to keep Citizens informed on Government affairs. We will create opportunities for, and actively seek Citizens input. We will continue with our quarterly newsletters and updating the website. We will continue to invite other Governments and organizations to report directly to Citizens.

## Economic Development

We need a plan for Economic Development both for Selkirk Development Corporation and for the local community. We need to create a balance where we have the Development Corporation continue to be 'for profit' and the First Nation assisting Citizens in accessing programs available in the Yukon to do small business feasibility studies, accessing grants or loans to become successful.

## Strength of the Nation

We need to negotiate a **new Financial Transfer Agreement** over the next year that will take in to account citizen-based funding (not just for those who are Status), bridging gaps in current funding such as Capital / Infrastructure, Development Assessment, Heritage and Culture. This may require political lobbying and I am aware of the challenges in this area through my current job.

Strengthen our financial base by exploring the possibility of negotiating new **tax** sharing agreements with Yukon Government and Canada (corporate tax, liquor tax, tobacco tax). If we can improve the fiscal strength of our Nation, we can then afford to make improvements in other programs and services. At the political level, we can lobby for **direct access** to funds from the Federal Government rather than having to apply to the Yukon Government. We need to involve our MLA and MP in our lobby efforts.



## Housing and Infrastructure

Continue to collect data on **housing** conditions and use this information to come up with a Capital plan and make improvements by priority. We cannot afford to fix everything with our current funding so we will need to seek other funds to assist.

Continue to collect data on our **aging infrastructure** by assessing all community facilities and use that data to develop a Capital plan and make improvements to bring them up to standard. We will need to seek additional funding.



# I believe Together We Can Build a Future For Our Children

I have a proven track record of having a strong work ethic and can get the job done. Over the years, I have watched carefully and learned many skills being the Selkirk First Nation Executive Assistant, Executive Director, Deputy Chief, Senior Official, Negotiation representative, Implementation Representative, Finance Committee member, Senior Policy Advisor and now I feel I am ready to put my skills to use as your next Chief. I believe in working together and building partnerships.

I look forward to your support on Election Day and look forward to the work we will be doing together over the next three years with openness, trust, respect, caring, sharing and teaching.



If you want to ask me questions or  
discuss anything, don't hesitate to  
contact me at  
[sgnelson1969@gmail.com](mailto:sgnelson1969@gmail.com)  
Or call me at  
(867) 689-5949

## COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT YOUR VOTE COUNTS

### **Election Day – April 5, 2017**

8:00 A.M. to 8 P.M.

Pelly Crossing – Link Building

Whitehorse – Willow Room, Yukon Inn

### **Advance Polls - March 29, 2017**

10 A.M. to 8:00 – Link Building, Pelly Crossing and in the Fireside Room at the Yukon Inn, Whitehorse

### **Special Ballots**

May be requested from the Chief Returning Officer

### **All-candidates Forums**

March 15, 2017 – 6 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Link Building, Pelly Crossing

March 18 – 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Yukon Inn, Whitehorse