

GWA'SALA – 'NAKWAXDA'XW NATIONS

April 2, 2025 Elections

Councillor Candidate Biography Booklet

The contents of this guide are based on the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Election Code which requires a 1-page biographical profile from each of the candidates.

Andrea Andrew Bio

My name is Andrea Maxine Walkus. My parents are Louis Walkus and Elizabeth (nee Boone) Walkus. I was born in Port Hardy. My roots are Gwa'sala (father) and Tlatasikwala (mother). My grandfathers were Chiefs George Walkus and Harvey Boone.

I am married to Chris Andrew and we have one son Christopher aka Sonny. We have been together 36 years and married 17 years and have lived an alcohol-free life since 2009 and none of us have ever used drugs.

In 2016, I graduated from Vancouver Island University on the Dean's List with courses in Communication and Leadership, Health Issues and the role of Health Promotions, with a large component on Indigenous history.

In 2017, I graduated from UBC's Aboriginal Health and Community Administration with a 96% average in Communication and Leadership, Fundamentals of Administration, Policy, Evaluation, and Research, Information Management, and Indigenous Health and Wellness.

Through these programs I developed the confidence to speak in front of crowds and small groups alike. I have a good rapport with all ages from children to Elders and easily make friends.

On my own, I have reviewed the Indian Act and the history of British Columbia First Nations plight in regard to our land being taken away in favour of the colonial people. I have also talked of what signing our treaty would mean to our people, specifically, that we would no longer be controlled by the Indian Act.

I do believe it is the people's right to choose how they want to live, I just provide what I know to them so they can make their choices.

I feel I would be a good candidate for Council based on my education and life experiences. I have lived in the city and in small towns and am not easily intimidated. I keep people's confidences unless they want me to say something on their behalf. I have written many support letters for our community for housing, child welfare, and medical.

Thank you.

March 13th, 2025

Biographical profile for Edward L Charlie

Edward Lloyd Charlie

April 26th, 1960

Born in Alert Bay, BC

Lived in Port Hardy area all my life.

Worked in various logging companies, Koprino Logging, Tribune Timber, Mill & Timer

Completed grade 9

I have little experience in fishing, enjoyed odd jobs with father-in-law on his fishing boat. Take and passed Carpentry Course, Level 1.

Experience in Carpentry, worked in few different communities. Gwa'sala'Nakwaxda'xw, Quatsino First Nation and Kwakwilt Nation.

My interest within GNN community is the well being of our people, elderly and our homeless. I love being part of different community events, volunteering and showing support for community at large. I look forward to being part of Housing area, Security Program, and Community Engagement.

Gilikas'la

Edward L Charlie

Darryl Coon (Hiłamas) Bio

My name is Darryl Coon and I am seeking your vote for a position on the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation Council. I have previously served on Council for 10 years. I believe that service to our community is my highest duty.

I was born May 12, 1975, in Port Hardy. I have been married to my wife, Ravena, for 27 years, 37 years together. I have four sons, and one grandson.

I am an avid hunter, and traditional food harvester for the Nation. I have provided deer, ducks, seaweed, clams, berries that have been distributed to Elders and other community members.

I have been involved in sports all my life. These have included soccer, hockey, baseball. I played as a youth and adult. I have coached since age 17 with youth soccer and did it for 20 years. I have coached men's and ladies ball hockey. I have also worked to raise funds for teams, trips and tournaments.

My work history was initially as a carpenter for approximately 7 years. I was then working as a custodian at the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School, when the administration saw something in me and asked if I would consider working as an Education Assistant, working with high needs youth. This work ignited a fire in me to work exclusively to support our youth and our future as a Nation. I was an EA for 10 years. Then I moved to the Health & Family Services to become the Youth Coordinator where I have been for 6 years.

My most important values have focussed on health and wellness. I have and continue to run men's and youth groups. I concentrate on mental health and reversing the intergenerational trauma caused by colonialism on our Indigenous people. I believe our connection to lands and waters are key to who we are and incorporate this into my work, including getting people back to the territories as much as we can.

I have training in Trauma work, ASIST (suicide response), and First Aid.

My traditional name is Hiłamas. I attend as many feasts and potlatches as I can. I was made a speaker by my late uncle TK Henderson, Chief Hiłamas. I was initiated into a 'Ma'maka dance by late uncle Tom Wallace and auntie Anne Wallace. I work to incorporate traditional knowledge and connection to the land into our trauma healing work.

My wife Ravena and I attend community events, volunteer our efforts and time when we can. I will continue this as a Council member. You will continue to see me and have access to me. I believe listening to our members is critical for our success.

I will continue to focus efforts on healing work and youth. Our future will be built on the foundation of our Elders and traditional values.

My name is jorden henderson, i am 32 years old born and raised here in port hardy.
I am running for G-N Council,
I graduated 2010 from Phss

I did work with in smith inlet and seymour inlet (Gwa'sala-Nak'wakda'xw) territories. i have started working with our band around 2014 with forestry companies doing engineering for lemare and other companies thatbhave done surveys for our bands for cmts cut blocks and fish berring streams.

ive worked with our shell fish program around treadwell bay, as well.

Ive had a oppportunity to further monitoring skills for our guardian watchmen program with a stewardship course (environmental monitoring) with campbell river first nations around 2016 with wayne walkus.

With this stewardship program we had gained knowledge from various professionals with environmental monitoring skills.

The program provided a week long course for 6 months that were a week long for 2 years. learning methods for note taking, vegetation coverage, taking a berring and slope percent.

I have also worked with the fisheries department, monitoring our salmon rivers.

Having the oppportunity for guardian and fisheries has givin me the chance to work with many community members, helping and learning together of smith and seymour inlet, being with elders and youth 16-17 years old, also having a few of our elders join. Learning from our elders and what they have been taught growing up, getting around the inlets by land marks.

Working for our band has givin me the confidence to be a voice for our nations, i will do my best as council and for our youth and community.

Thank you for your time

Biographical Profile

My name is Lorna Henderson, my traditional name is Dlatligilakw.

I'm a descendant of the Nakwaxda'xw Nation. I was born in Margaret Bay BC to Louisa Joseph (nee Henderson). My grandparents on my mother's side; Kenneth Henderson, and his parents were Tom and Maggie (Walkus) Henderson. My grandmother was Alice Seaweed, and her parents were Willie and Gertrude (Walkus)Seaweed.

My achievements include my GED in 1992, secretarial school in Surrey, GNN construction, GNN School Education assistant, C&C Secretary, GNN Band secretary, Housing assistant, Housing administrator, and Finance assistant, Payables, Payroll, Accounts receivable etc, as well as many online courses for accounting.

I have worked for the Gwasala- 'Nakwaxda'xw Nation on and off for the past 32 years.

My passion is to see all our people housed, educated, addiction free, self-sustained, and ready for whatever the future holds for us.

I would like to see communication, unity, and transparency as well as community involvement so that there is no conflict amongst our people. I am a big advocate for the people and making sure that they are informed. I believe that every person has a voice and should be heard. I don't believe in favoritism or nepotism and feel that everyone should be treated equally in all aspects of our Nations business. I don't believe in self-serving to get ahead and I feel that no person should ever put themselves before another person for advancement or self-gain.

I love my people and my community and would love to see us all move forward together without controversy or conflict.

Gi'la'kasla

Biography of Robin King – Candidate Council, Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation

Robin King is a proud and devoted member of the Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation, standing as a candidate for Chief and Council. Born into a legacy shaped by resilience and strength, Robin is the daughter and granddaughter of residential school survivors—figures whose perseverance continues to inspire her dedication to her people. She is the granddaughter of Janet and Vivian Paul, as well as Alice and Kenneth Henderson. Her parents are Rose King and Johnny Henderson.

Her grandmother, Janet Paul, was a hereditary chief, and her wisdom and guidance significantly influenced Robin throughout her life. Raised in a large family, she deeply understands the importance of leadership, community, and all interconnectedness. From a young age, Robin was honoured to learn from her grandparents, observing how they embodied responsibility, integrity, and cultural stewardship in their leadership roles. This upbringing laid the foundation for her strong belief in the important role that leaders must play in supporting and uplifting the community.

As a mother, daughter, and granddaughter, Robin is intimately aware of the sacrifices and the importance of family. These roles have strengthened her understanding of the complexities and challenges faced by members of the Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation, as well as the urgent need for compassionate, informed, and committed leadership fostering growth and healing for future generations. Her experience as a mother has given her a profound sense of responsibility, not only to her own children but to all the children of the Nation, ensuring they grow up in a safe, thriving environment where their culture, language, and traditions are honoured and preserved. She has 17 years of working experience at the Health Centre and is currently employed at the Gwa-Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elementary School.

Robin's candidacy is motivated by a strong commitment to her community. She believes serving her people is a responsibility rooted in her elders' teachings and example. As a candidate, she brings a unique blend of personal experience, inherited wisdom, and a passionate drive for positive change. She aims to continue the work of those who came before her, ensuring that the Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation moves forward with unity, pride, and strength.

Having witnessed her grandparents' legacy and the impact of their leadership, Robin is determined to bring that same vision of empowerment to the next generation. She is committed to fostering leadership that listens, understands, and advocates for the needs of every individual within the community, especially the youth and Elders. She envisions a Nation where self-determination, economic growth, cultural revitalization, and healing are at the forefront of every decision.

With her deep respect for tradition and unwavering dedication to progress, Robin is prepared to lead with compassion, wisdom, and strength, guided by the values her family and her people instilled in her. She believes in the strength of the Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation and the power of leadership that reflects the heart and soul of its people.

As Robin steps forward in her candidacy for Chief and Council, she carries with her the spirit of resilience and the call to serve with integrity and honour, ensuring that the voices of all community members are heard and that the path ahead is one of unity, healing, and cultural empowerment.

March 12, 2025

Patricia Sewid – History and experience

This letter is written to confirm my desire to run for the position of Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Councillor in the upcoming April 2, 2025 Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations election. There are several reasons that motivate me to allow my name to be in the running.

Firstly, I am a member of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation and descendant of the 'Nakwaxda'xw through my grandfather, 'Namugwis', James L. Henderson. James was an uncle to my family of Hendersons here in our community.

I have lived and worked with my Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw Family/Community since the mid 1980's. In the late 1990's I took a two-year Natural Resources Program through our own (Then) Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw College and I went on to be the Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw Fisheries Technical Lead/Supervisor and crew member to this day.

Experiences in the homelands, including training young people about fish management techniques and how to live in the Homelands, has sparked my interest in the role as Gwa'sala- 'Nakwaxda'xw Council member. There are many challenges and opportunities at both the operational and strategic levels of natural resources management and planning, that I would like to use the knowledge I have gained from Elders, from the lands and waters and from my community to take on a leadership role. In addition, my work has taught the importance of being a team player, all have a role to regain what was lost through the forced 1964 relocation and following Federal legislation that removed us from our waters and Homelands.

Thank you for the time taken to review this submission.

Gila'kasla,

Patricia Sewid, 'Gala-cla'

LESLIE "SIKALALA"

TAYLOR-CHILD

"COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNITY CONNECTION, AND A THRIVING FUTURE"

Leslie Alexandra Taylor-Child is a dedicated advocate for her people, deeply rooted in her cultural heritage, and committed to fostering a healthier, stronger, and more connected community. She has spent her life working to bridge gaps, empower youth, and support families, all while promoting cultural pride and identity.

Cultural Leadership and Community Engagement: Leslie has played an essential role as a cultural backroom worker for her family and various Kwakwaka'wakw Chiefs, always ready to assist the Gwa'sala and Nakwaxda'xw Nations when called upon. She actively promotes and teaches culture at Port Hardy Secondary School, where she has led the school's annual cultural celebration, a major achievement that has reconnected students to their identities and traditions. Beyond the school, Leslie has delivered "Culture in the Classroom" training at School District 85's professional development days, helping to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities through cultural sensitivity education. She is also a familiar face at feasts and potlatches, always lending a hand to support these essential traditions.

Education and Professional Training: Leslie has three years of post-secondary education in and is working toward her Bachelor's degree in Education. She holds a certificate in Aboriginal Ecotourism, as well as specialized training in Applied Suicide Intervention Strategies and Łokwimas (You Are Strong), a Kwakwaka'wakw youth suicide prevention initiative. Her education and training reinforce her commitment to providing support, advocacy, and cultural connection for youth and families in her community.

Professional Experience and Leadership: Leslie has held various roles that highlight her leadership skills and passion for community development:

- First Nations Connections Worker – Advocates for students and families at Port Hardy Secondary School, ensuring they are connected to community programs, support systems, and resources.
- Youth Coordinator (Gwa'sala and Nakwaxda'xw Nations) – Expanded youth programs beyond sports to incorporate land-based learning and cultural education.
- Manager of the Gwa'sala and Nakwaxda'xw Art Shack – Supported local artists and cultural tourism initiatives.
- Receptionist for the Gwa'sala and Nakwaxda'xw Nations – Provided administrative support and community engagement for two years.
- She has also served as a board member for the Sacred Wolf Friendship Center Youth Council, reinforcing her dedication to youth empowerment.

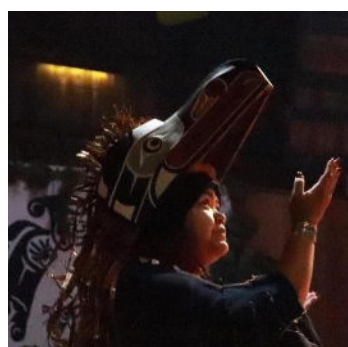
A Strong Advocate for Community Well-being: Leslie was raised with the belief that "you don't have a voice unless you show up"—a lesson instilled by her father, Les Taylor. She leads by example, attending meetings, following protocols, and ensuring those who feel unheard receive the support and advocacy they need. Her proudest achievement is helping youth find their voices so they feel empowered to stand up for themselves, and advocate for their families and communities.

Vision for the Community: As Band Councillor, Leslie is committed to:

- Full transparency in leadership and decision-making.
- Strengthening community connections through engagement and collaboration.
- Creating a healthier, more positive environment where future generations can thrive.
- Expanding education by supporting current plans and advocating for extending the Band school to Grade 12.
- Enhancing safety, economic opportunities, mental health support, and youth programs by reviewing and advocating for changes that better serve community needs.

Guided by Strong Values: Leslie's leadership is grounded in integrity, respect, resilience, humility, accountability, courage, passion, adaptability, service, transparency, vision, honesty, trust, collaboration, creativity, patience, personal development, empathy, communication, and dedication.

With her deep commitment to cultural preservation, education, and community well-being, Leslie Alexandra Taylor-Child is ready to serve as a leader who listens, acts, and stands for the future of her people.



My name is Alvin Walkus Jr.

I will be running for Council with thanks to my Nominators. I hope to be elected to represent our people and give a new perspective as well as voice for our community. I believe we can have a new voice in our elected council.

I was born in Port Hardy and raised in Tsulquate. Hedan Giga'olnukw Alvin Walkus Sr dlu' Jessiewale.

Since my teen years I have been lucky to be around some people that have been well versed in our culture and culture of our extended nations. I enjoy being a student and am excited to keep learning more and more about culture..

In my younger years I was a research assistant for Coastal Ecosystems Research Foundation, worked up and down our traditional territories, was able to kayak and drive a boat though our territories from Bramham Island up to Smith Inlet, studying Gray whales and surveying the biodiversity of the intertidal and coastal forests.

Since high school I have been working on piecing together my family tree and now am able to know how deep my roots tie me to Nakwaxdaxw, Gwa'sala, Kingcome, Shell Beach and Rivers Inlet. Pieces I share with my Munchkins so that when they get ask who are they related to they will have the answers. One of the consistent reminders we all get in some form is to know who you are and where you come from. I have been fortunate to not be one of the ones lost in an identity crisis.

Graduated from Port Hardy Secondary School in 1998. Did my first year University at Canadian University College in 1998-1999. Was working towards a Bachelor of Elementary Education. Took a year off to save money, I guess that year is not over quite yet.

I worked in the processing plant from 2002 to 2023, I quit working there to pursue learning bakwamkala September 2023. May 2024 Received a certificate from Simon Fraser University. This year working on my diploma from Simon Fraser. Been quite the language journey. Worked with Three of Our fluent speakers from the Nakwaxdaxw and Gwa'sala. Worked with other fluent speakers 6 from Alert Bay and 2 from Fort Rupert.

Last year was a first year student and this year am a student as well as the teacher assistant. I am not completely fluent yet but look forward to continuing to pick the brains of any fluent speakers I cross paths with. With attending the language program I am in better shape to learn and in a better position to help spread teachings to others

I have had the opportunity and privilege to learn from my family and extended family to help guide me. Have been encouraged by them to live a disciplined life. I know my life has not been a perfect one but with support from few people I have been able to make the necessary changes to how I was living my life.

I hope we get all our people to get out and vote, all the decisions have to be made by our community. I hope moving forward there will be a clear and effective relationship between the elected representatives on Council and the community as a whole. Keep in mind that we need to remember equally what has been done and what has not been done to keep our community a safe place.

Yo!

Nugwa'am Wadzi'dalaga. Gukwalan lax Dzagwadi

Hello my name is Crystal Walkus, my Bakwamgalā name means “a special woman who is loved”. I live in Port Hardy B.C. where I was born and raised.

I am of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw people. Our Nations are not originally from this part of beautiful B.C. In the early 60's my ancestors were forcefully removed from our original territory's of Takush (Smiths Inlet), Ba'as (Blunden Harbour), and Sagwambalā (Seymour Inlet), after which we were made to relocate to where we live now at the northern tip of Vancouver Island as one combined Nation.

I am a widowed mother of three boys aged 22, 20 and 17 however I also raise my baby brother whom is 17.

I am Head facilitator for our nations Kwala'sta healing centre, and volunteer for a collaborative youth collective group that facilitates inclusive youth activities, over 10 years of volunteer coaching with our local PHYSA.

I also run a small side business as a beader, out of my own home part time.

My education consists of grade 12 graduate at PHSS, Hairdressing certification from London school of beauty, Human Services diploma From NIC.

I am currently sober, going on to 8 years this November, despite some very evident struggles with addiction in our nations due to the forced relocation. I now dedicate my life to my children and all the children I work with and coach. The healing of my nations will start with me. Working where I do is another step toward my healing. I work every single day to be the woman I needed when I was a little girl.

I am a very forward thinking, solution focused, vocal, confident indigenous woman, with my nations integrity and well being with the best intentions at heart. I think I this is very evident with my commitment to my work position, I live all the teachings and trainings in my every day life and pass on the teachings to every one I come in to contact with.

Gilakas'la

Crystal Walkus



Dennis Walkus – Candidate for Band Council 2025

Dennis John Walkus was born in 1964 in Ocean Falls to late Mary and John Walkus. Since the community's relocation, Dennis grew up in Tsulquate reserve and has remained a dedicated and active member.

Known for his unwavering commitment to the well being of others, Dennis continues to support his community in many ways. Whether assisting elders, ensuring the safety of the school and its children, or patrolling during the nights, he plays a vital role in maintaining a strong and caring environment. His dedication and selflessness have made a lasting impact, and his efforts are deeply valued by those around him.

Dennis is a compassionate individual whose top priority is the well-being of his elders. He deeply values the voices and well being of elders in the community. With a deep sense of respect and responsibility, he ensures that they are healthy, safe, and comfortable in their environment. His unwavering commitment to their care does not go unnoticed, as he continuously advocates for their needs and provides support in any way he can. As a skilled hunter, he gives back – often sharing his harvests, especially deer with elders, never hesitating to provide for those in need. He understands the importance of preserving traditions, supporting families, and creating opportunities for future generations.

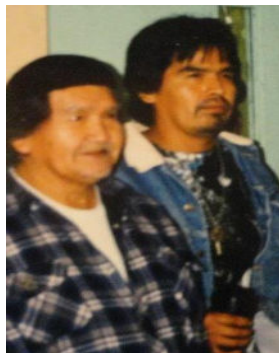
Dennis Walkus is a true example of generosity and dedication, embodying the spirit of giving and care that strengthens the community and generations to come. Whether through hands-on assistance, emotional support, or creating a secure and nurturing space, Dennis goes above and beyond to enhance the lives of those he cares for. His dedication serves as an inspiration to others, reinforcing the importance of honoring and protecting the elders in our communities.

Therefore, Dennis Walkus is a dedicated and experienced leader, running for Band Council once again to continue serving his community with integrity, transparency, and a deep commitment to governance. With extensive knowledge in leadership and decision making, Dennis has consistently worked to ensure that the voices of community members are heard and respected at the council table.

His passion for service goes beyond meetings and policies, he is always willing to lend a helping hand in any way he can. Whether advocating for community needs, assisting individuals in times of hardship, or working toward long-term solutions, his dedication speaks volumes about his character and leadership.

With a strong vision for a thriving and united community, Dennis Walkus remains committed to working collaboratively, ensuring transparency in decision making, and upholding the values that matter most to the people.

Gilakas'la



Gilakasla my Name is Gary Walkus, my traditional name is "Siwidi", of the Gigilgam, Gwa'sala. I served on council from 2008-2018 and got back on 2022-present. Through out the years I have learned off other members of council including my main teacher my father Paddy Walkus, and working hard for the Community in all aspects of what the council fiduciary responsibilities are. Having focus on portfolios such as health and family and fighting the MCFD for our families. Involved in education and aquaculture, helping many families with losses and making sure they aren't left dealing with arrangements on their own, emergency issues, and many other duties. I also work with our Hiligam Trust as Trust chair and uphold our communities interest to the highest level and our board as a whole make sure we have as much inclusion as possible for our area and members out of town. I also hold a seat that my grandfather Harvey "Happy" Boone had that was bestowed on me by my father Paddy "Maxwa" Walkus and Gixsistalisame Wakas Willie Walkus and many chiefs that gave their blessings. I hold this near and dear to my heart, with the responsibility to uphold my family and community. Helping with uplifting and Digita Ceremonies as well as other cultural ceremonies that our people have practiced for centuries. Being on council has helped me understand several concerns of health and well-being of our community and hope we can continue to work at addressing key issues and turn things around. Many things have been accomplished thus far with direction from you our members. And my heart is always there to serve and make myself available as much as possible to listen and take to our table to resolve or find solutions. All my love and respects

Your's truly,

Gary Walkus

Paddy Walkus

To whom it may concern:

1976 - elected chief with consecutive terms excluding two terms early 1980(2year term) and late eighties'89-90. Until 2019. {attempted to retire} 2022-2025 - Councillor Served in various roles as executive member with Kwakiutl District Council for 30 years. Nanwakolas Council 8 years Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs as vice president 8 years. Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw Treaty board of directors and consultant 21 years Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw Trust Board 14 years Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw Galgapotla Society 3 years. Intertribal Health Board 6 years. Have been a part of many internal committees within Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw First Nations for duration of my involvement as chief and council positions. Extensive concentrations on family structure. Specifically in Child Welfare. Assisted in the planning of new school initiatives. Ongoing work with all levels of federal, provincial and local governments. Ongoing efforts in rebuilding Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw Nation to its former glory of being self sustaining and self determination. Rebuilding identity. And sacred connection to our traditional territories.terr