

Rhonda Marie Phillips

Email: rhondaphillips01@gmail.com

Cell: 778-267-9292

Weytkp Xat'sūll Members near and far,

My name is Rhonda Marie Phillips and I live in Soda Creek. My father is John Phillips Sr from Xat'sūll and his parents are late Isadore and Margaret Phillips nee Sellars, and Hazel Guy from Xat'sūll. My mother is late Dorothy Phillips nee Charleyboy from Tsideldel First Nation and her parents are late Felix and Justine Marianne nee Charleyboy and late Casimir Lulua from Xeni Gwetin First Nation.

I have beautiful memories growing up in Soda Creek, and I have always been proud of where I come from. Since I was a child, I have always known that I wanted to be part of great change and work for our people. I remember when I was quite young and former Chief Bev Sellars came to our house to speak to my parents and I was in awe, because she was a "woman Chief". The band would hold homework nights at the old band office in Soda Creek, and Bev always greeted us with smiles, sat with us, and encouraged us to stay in school.

When I was a teenager, my late mother was elected as Chief once she graduated with her degree. She came home and led our people. I was very proud. I watched how she led with fairness and with great strength. She and the Council at the time, had implemented policies and procedures that reflected accountability and transparency. I admired her and the rest of the Council for doing this.

I looked up to these two women, as they led in a male dominated society; and I knew that one day I would lead too. I didn't know how at the time, I just knew that I would be part of change. In all the roles that I have taken on, I have been a leader, and have not shied away or been intimidated to speak from my heart.

I want to thank those who put my name forward, and those who have encouraged me to step up. I also want to recognize and honor my father for believing in me and always telling me that I can do whatever I put my mind to. When I told my father I was nominated he had great pride in his eyes and asked me when the big day was. He is my rock, my #1 fan who taught me to always remember that whatever I do in life; do it with respect, compassion and trust in my higher power.

I have attached my [biography](#), so you could get to know me better. I shared my educational background, and where I have worked. I am proud to say that I obtained my General Studies Degree in Business Administration and Aboriginal Economic Development from Simon Fraser University in 2006.

Rhonda Marie Phillips

Email: rhondaphillips01@gmail.com

Cell: 778-267-9292

I feel it is important to share who I am as it empowers my growth, and by sharing my truth it further validates where I come from and honors my healing.

My platform is simple, to lead with integrity and fairness, to be open and transparent, and to be accountable to the Council, our staff and our members.

I have included our vision and mission statement from the Xat'sull website as part of my platform, because it is important to remember what we are striving for as a nation, and how we are going to do it.

Our Vision

Know our secwepemcstin, culture, and secwepemculecw as a unified, strong, self-determined, holistically sustainable and prosperous Xat'sull Nation, based upon our system of good governance that effectively upholds our customary laws, values, practices, and knowledge keepers.

Our Mission

We will realize our vision by empowering and working with, and for, our xat'sullemc to be proud, letwilc-ren-semec, realize their potential, practice our rights and responsibilities, and respect those who walked before us, consistent with our values for the benefit of current, and future generations.

I will work in collaboration with the Council to implement Good Governance that is in the best interest of our nation as a whole. I will do this by ensuring transparency and accountability are at the forefront of all that we do. I want to create a space for our members to be able to voice their thoughts and concerns on the issues that are at our Leadership table.

When decisions need to be made that affect our nation and future generations, I will work with the Council to engage with our members. So that at the end of the day, we as Council are making an informed decision, guided by your voices.

I am committed to holding quarterly meetings, being proactive and reaching out to our elders and youth to have their voices included in our shared vision. I believe it is important for us to work together in order to achieve the goals we have set out for our nation, and our future generations.

When making decisions, I approach with a critical lens that takes into account everyone's views with the goal for consensus. I hear from others and listen to their reasoning. I do not know everything. If I don't understand something, I take the time to learn, ask questions and discern from there.

Rhonda Marie Phillips

Email: rhondaphillips01@gmail.com

Cell: 778-267-9292

As a leader, and former Band Administrator I understand the importance of separating administration from politics. Council's responsibility is to set the vision and map out how we will get there through membership consultation. Administration's role is to then implement those strategies, policies and procedures. Council has one employee and that is the Band Administrator. This removes liability and protects both Council and Administration.

Lastly, I promise to always work towards unity and solidarity within Secwepemculecw; on issues that are shared by our sister communities as well as across Turtle Island. I want Xat'sūll to be known for being open, transparent, accountable, inclusive and respectful. I want Xat'sūll to not only learn from other nations but to also celebrate our milestones and our successes together and with pride.

I am committed to breaking down the silos, standing up for our people and am inviting you to support me on this journey towards healing, growth and self-determination.

I am open to meeting with you in your homes, or by phone to share my vision as a leader and to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me and I will make time for you. Kukwstsétsemc (Thank-you).

With Gratitude,

Rhonda Phillips, BGS