

VOTE FOR EVELYN CAMILLE

As TIB Councillor



Weyt-kp – I would like another opportunity to serve Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc as a Band Councillor for this next term. As a “Traditional Elder”, I would be very proud to represent you as your Councillor.

I am originally from the Adams Lake Indian Band. My parents were Nels Leon Kenoras, from Adams Lake Band, and Catherin Calhoun Leon Kenoras, from Skeetchestn. I married Joseph Camille, from Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc, at a very young age and have been apart of this community. We raised many children and foster children. Joe Camille was very active Sportsman, who enjoyed coaching the Hockey & Baseball Teams.

I am a proud Secwepemc, that has me involved in many ceremonies and gatherings. I respect and participate in traditional ceremonies, volunteer, and support for many social functions, such as funerals and Memorials.

Many people have been concerned about my health- but please be assured that I am in good health. Every season I have been out gathering traditional medicines and foods through out our traditional territories. I am proud to say that I have been working as a Language Teacher and an Elder Worker for the Sekelep School of Excellent. I enjoy being around all the Grandchildren and teaching the language and our culture.

As a member of TIB, I have had great interest in community events and have partaken in many of them. Since the Residential Schools, I have been very concerned about the education of our children and focused towards building our schools of which we now have. The Skelep School of Excellence, where Traditional Language and Culture is taught.

In my previous days as a TIB Band Councillor, I was instrumental in the Tripart Agreement with the RCMP. I was the First – “First Nation Support Worker” and “Language Teacher” within the local School District. I would like to see our culture and language flourish within our children because that is who we are as Secwepemc. It is our identity that keeps us strong, as a nation.

I have challenged Secwepemc Child and Family Services through the Human Rights Tribunal. I have fought this system and won my case when they tried to tell me that I was too old to look after my Grandchildren! I had tried to explain to Secwepemc Child and Family Services that traditionally, the Grandparents would raise and teach the Grandchildren. I had assisted many Keye7es and Sle7es since. I will advocate for all children who were taken away from families and communities. We have suffered enough through Residential Schools and this has got to stop. One of my concerns that I have is: "Secwepemc Child and Family Services – should be shut down and take the responsibility back to their communities, where it belongs!"

I have been involved in the Justice System for all our people and sit as an Elder at First Nations Courts, the focus is to help all First Nations that appear in courts and to listen to their life's journey for a better life.

I have attended many meetings and gatherings concerning the environment. Because my family relies on traditional hunting and gathering, the safety of our environment has always been a main concern.

I still continue to do a lot of local, regional, and international public relations. Such as Kamloops City Inaugural, The Missing & Murdered Woman Vigils, Take Back the Night, First Nations Technology Council, and when the Remains that were discovered at the Kamloops Residential School. And as a residential school Survivor, I have tried to meet with as many visitors and other Survivors as I can. Either at this Residential School, or at the Powwow Grounds, and sometimes at the grave site itself.

But now I still would like to know – "What is Next?" – "What can we do to help as Survivors?" As TIB Members, we should be involved in this process.

Once the Residential School cases were accepted as a class action suit, I was instrumental in ensuring that Day Scholars were included as a part of the class action suit as they also attended the same school ensuring that there was healing programs for all who attended the Residential School. Even though the Day Scholars Class Action was put on hold, I would like to keep pursuing the Class Active for our Day Scholars.

The priority for Chief and Council should be to "Build an Elders Home" on our lands. I will continue to lobby the Elders Home to keep our "Knowledge Keepers" together, and well taken care for in an acceptable and friendly environment.

I cannot make any promises, but I will promise an "Open Door Policy and Open Communication". With more membership involvement, through working committee's and transparency.

Your VOTE Counts

So, get out and vote for **Evelyn Camille!**

Kukwsts`etsemc

Respect for mother earth

Respect for our elders and children

Respect for the four directions

Respect for myself

