

BIOGRAPHY – Chief Gibby Jacob

Chief Gibby Jacob, whose ancestral name is Kákeltn siyám, carries the title of hereditary Chief of the Squamish Nation (which is comprised of lands in and around North Vancouver, Gibsons Landing and the area to the north of Howe Sound). Chief Jacob has been an elected Councilor since December 1981 and has served eight consecutive four-year terms.

A gifted communicator, Chief Jacob is the primary media spokesperson for the Squamish Nation. He the Executive Operating Officer of Intergovernmental Relations Natural Resources & Revenue, the economic arm of the Squamish Nation. In this role Chief Jacob is the chief negotiator for treaty, government to government negotiations, land use management, on and off reserve development, and forestry.

Chief Jacob works closely with other First Nations on issues to do with conservation, fisheries, forestry, and transboundary policy. He has traveled from British Columbia to Hawaii and New Zealand promoting an understanding of aboriginal peoples working together toward conservation and economic sustainability for future generations.

Now as a member of the Board of Directors for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games for both the Squamish Nation and the Lil'wat Nation, Chief Jacob is helping to shape our understanding of the historical presence of Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia and Canada. Through the creation of "The Cultural Journey" visitors traveling from Vancouver to Whistler, British Columbia will learn about the history of the region through the history and legends of Squamish peoples from time immemorial. This journey includes points of interest, road signs which present traditional designs and name places, and the most exciting aspect was the completion of the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler in 2008. The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre blends the wonderful traditions of the Lil'wat Nation with those of the Squamish Nation with exhibits, interpretive walks, a traditional longhouse, and a traditional Istken Hall.

His latest and perhaps most wide-reaching achievement on behalf of the Squamish Nation is the negotiation of the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act (FNCIDA). This Act will help develop new tools for First Nations to use to widen their economic footprint within their traditional territories, ensuring sustainable revenue streams for future generations to come.

BIOGRAPHY – Chief Ian Campbell

Chief Ian Campbell is the youngest of sixteen Hereditary Chiefs of the Squamish Nation. His family lineage descends from the Squamish and Musqueam First Nations of the Coast Salish people. His ancestral name is Xálek’ and his Chieftain name is Sekyú siyám.

Chief Campbell is an elected Council member, an official spokesperson for the Squamish Nation, and is the Cultural Ambassador & Negotiator for Intergovernmental Relations, Natural Resources & Revenue which is the economic arm of the Squamish Nation. In this role Chief Campbell is instrumental in advancing the interest of aboriginal rights and title through agreements around forestry, crown land development, land use planning, recreational and park management, and the establishment of conservations areas such as Xay Temíxw.

Named one of British Columbia’s “Best and Brightest Up & Comers”, Chief Campbell participates on many boards and advisory committees in a diverse array of organizations, including the Fraser Basin Council, Aboriginal Achievement Awards, Justice Institute Advisory, and North Vancouver Outdoor School Advisory.

A public speaker since the age of fourteen, Chief Campbell traveled both nationally and internationally empowering audiences while sharing the rich, vibrant history and culture of his people. He is a strong advocate for children and youth. Chief Campbell has a mixture of post secondary education as well as his upbringing in traditional teaching on the land; this draws forward traditional knowledge and applies it within the modern context. He believes in the continuity of tradition, “we are relay runners, we must accept the responsibilities bestowed on us by our predecessors while creating succession” and it is through his beliefs that he carries forward, in his life and work, the traditions and language of the Nation.