

Danielle Mellish (nee: Williams) Tsuxalwet

I am the granddaughter of the late Teddy Williams and the late Mavis Williams (Lewis). My parents are Lyle and Louise Williams. My Husband is Dan Mellish and our children are Alexis and Logan

Employment History

- I am currently finishing my first term as an elected member of Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council for the term of 2013-2017.
- Before that I was the Renovations Coordinator for the Squamish Nation (SN) Community Operations Dept from 2008 – 2013, but for approximately 6 months at the end of 2013, just before I was elected to council, I worked in the SN Registry Department as a Lands Registry Assistant.
- Previous to these positions I worked in the SN Human Resources Department as a Recruitment Coordinator from 2004 – 2008.
- I also worked as an Administrative Coordinator in the Aboriginal Relations Dept at BC Rail in 2002 – 2003.

Education and Experience

- I completed the Construction Operations Program at BCIT in 2007. The program included project management, technical writing, interpersonal skills, blue print reading, construction estimating, contracts and more.
- I graduated from Carson Graham Senior Secondary with honours – Dogwood Diploma in 1994.
- I have also attained many certificates, including: Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), Mold Assessment and Clean Up (Residential); Troubleshooting IAQ and Housing Durability; Workplace Harassment and Conflict Resolution; Event Planning; as well as First Aid, to name a few.

Community Activities

- Attend and participate in cultural events embracing our culture and learning about our rich history as well as visit and become familiar with our traditional and sacred territories.
- I was honoured to have recently received my ancestral name from my family.
- Played soccer with the SN Ladies Soccer team for many years.
- Played Lacrosse with the North Shore Ladies Sr. Team for years.
- Was the assistant coach for the Novice North Shore Eagles lacrosse team 2010.
- Manager and League scheduler for two years for the Sr. Woman's Lacrosse team.
- Helped to organize and run fundraisers for many Nation teams.

Associations or Groups

I was appointed by Council to be on the Board of Directors for the SLCC Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre and I was also appointed to be one of the Directors for Nchu7mut.

Why I want to run for Chiefs and Council

I have decided to put my name forward and run for Council again so that I can continue to work hard on behalf of all Squamish people to help ensure that our future is the best possible outcome for our Nation and its members. I have learned so much during my time on Council, and I feel honoured that I was able to sit at the table and contribute over the last 4 years. I have been committed to my role as a Council member and I pride myself on my dedication and attendance. I have also been able to voice my ideas and concerns and treat others with respect and diplomacy while at the Council table and community. I believe my level-headed decision making, strong work ethic, open mind and positive attitude allow me to be a valuable asset at the table.

I wish to carry on in my role as a Council member and to be present at the table in order to move important projects forward, to strive be a voice of reason, and to maximize on the opportunities available to the Nation for sustainable and stable growth that will benefit everyone as a whole and for future generations. I have always felt strongly about keeping our lands free of pollutants and safe from harmful and damaging developments. And I have always felt that the health and safety of our community members of all ages remains a priority.

Issues facing the Squamish Nation

There is a housing crisis in Squamish, Vancouver and the North Shore areas and we need people at the table who are willing to look at alternative housing options as well as affordable housing options that benefit our members in a timely manner. This includes our elders who want to come home to live on the reserve to be close to family and medical services but have nowhere to go. And also for the youth and young adults going to school, who need affordable places to stay that is closer to their schools.

The Nation needs to find better ways to communicate with its membership so that meetings can be more productive and can be a safe place for all to be able to provide their input and feel heard. This is key to building trust within our Nation, so we can work together on building the future as a unified group.

And we need to focus on economic development, sustainability, employment, and training opportunities that will benefit all of our members. It is important to have thoughtful and meaningful discussions with the community to seek their input towards these initiatives as well.