

# J. Curtis Wilson for Wei Wai Kum Council

Yoxdax̣, gēlakasdax̣, Nug̣aʔəm Mulidās. ʔOlakalən ʔikən noqē, x̣a nalax.  
Hello, welcome everybody. My name is Mulidās, I am very happy to be here today.

Gelakasdax̣ hamaʔa lilḳilaḵē, λuw gelakasla ninoxsolaḵ.  
I would like to welcome everybody (community) And welcome our people of high ranking.

ləmis dən daḳ ala loʔ kəs kiwalos k'iaxən qənc hiʔilē lilḳilaḵē.  
I am asking you to help me to work together (in harmony).

My English name is J. Curtis Wilson and I would like to start by acknowledging the Wei Wai Kum Nation/community for their continued support in my ability to be an elected leader in this community.

My family comes from the four corners of the Kwakwaka'wakw territory. My paternal grandparents come from Axwamees (Wakeman Sound), and We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge); my maternal grandparents come from Ba'as (Blunden Harbour), and Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River).

Over the last 12 years serving as an elected councillor for the Wei Wai Kum Nation, I have learned a lot about being a leader, being true to my community, being humble and respectful. This past term as a councillor has afforded me the opportunity to learn about all the various aspects of our amazing Nation, and to witness first-hand all the hard work that our staff does on a day-to-day basis to keep us moving forward. This experience has opened my eyes to the realities and challenges that affect our Nation and our people today, as well as into the future. That being said, I recognize that there is still a lot to be learned as an elected leader.

As you are all aware, this year has been a very difficult one for my family with the loss of my mother last August. I never thought it would be this difficult to cope with the loss of a Mother, a Grandmother to my children, and a friend. I have thought long and hard about whether I wanted to continue to do this work for our community. Over the last twelve years, my family and I have made many sacrifices. In the last few years, I had to step into dual roles as acting chief and councillor. Throughout these times, sacrifices were made in several areas in my life; but those sacrifices were made because of the love and care that I have for this community as a whole. After consulting with my family, we decided I would continue to let my name stand as a nomination for an elected councillor for this Nation. We feel strongly this is what my Mom would want me to do.

Over the years as elected councillor, I had the honour of getting to work with Culture, Education and Youth. These portfolios hold a special place for me. They have given me the opportunity to work within the school district and community teaching art classes and

delivering information about traditional governance and our modern governance system. These opportunities are rewarding for me and I am humbled and honoured to be involved.

In the last couple of years, I have been able to be more involved in Language Revitalization, which has been an amazing experience. I will admit that my involvement in Language Revitalization has highlighted the fact that I need to spend some personal time and effort in learning more language myself.

In partnership with We Wai Kai, we secured funding through the Jordan's Principle and had the opportunity to work with a South Korean company to develop a language platform. This platform enables teachers to deliver our language without fully being able to speak the language themselves. These were introduced into the Kwanwatsi Pre-School and Aboriginal Head Start Programs in September 2018. They are continuing to use these platforms, and we will be working on sorting out all the kinks. We are currently working on Phase 2, which is a more interactive program for the kids, securing more funding, and lastly providing the tablets to interested families in both communities.

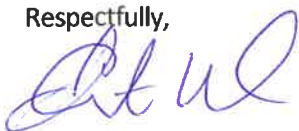
It has taken many years and the hard work of so many people (too many to name names), but we were finally able to negotiate with the School District to offer a pilot program for a Liqwala/Kwak'wala immersion kindergarten program within the public system. In the 2019/2020 school year, we will be delivering this immersion program at Ripple Rock School. Next steps from there will include monitoring success, negotiations for additional funding, as well as expanding the program availability to other grades in the upcoming years. It has taken many years for the School District and Wei Wai Kum Nation to come back to the table, but we have, and it is progressive. We are currently negotiating the Local Education Agreement with the School District and things are looking promising.

Our Nation is facing both challenging and exciting times. There are many opportunities on the horizon that I would love to continue to be a part of. As a Council we have been working through some Governance Training and Strategic Planning, which has been a very rewarding process. I am very interested in seeing the outcomes of this important work.

I am very excited about the many things I have had the privilege to be a part of. I am kindly asking that on **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, you put your trust in my ability to be a leader in this community once again. I would be very honoured to have the opportunity to continue this work and see a number of these projects through.

Please feel free to give me a call at 250-203-4169 or email me at [mulidzas@shaw.ca](mailto:mulidzas@shaw.ca) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



J. Curtis Wilson