

JAMES HARRIS

CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF



Hello, my name is James (Jim) T. Harris, and I am proud to call Seabird Island home. I come from a family deeply rooted in our community. My father was the late Don Harris from Seabird Island, and my mother was the late Ethelyn (Harris) Gabriel from Port Douglas, my Grandparents Vincent and Beatrice Harris and Norman and Victoria Gabriel.

My wife, Susan (McHalsie) Harris, comes from a family with roots in Hope and Boston Bar.

Together we raised five children and are blessed with eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. While two of our children began their journey to join family on the other side far too soon, some of our children and grandchildren live near us, others are in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, and Cultus Lake.

Family is my greatest source of strength and the reason I care so deeply about the future of our community.

My experience in leadership began in 1999, when I was first elected to Seabird Council. I served until 2017, stepping away when election rules changed, and later was honoured to be elected Chief in 2020. Because leadership requires focus, I started Red Road Driving School, which allows me to continue serving our people while supporting my family.

I have never put my name forward for leadership for power, the leader I have chosen to be is one that puts our people and community first and is one part of a team of Chief and Council standing together, caring for all members including those members living away from home, listening, working hard, and carrying the responsibility of our community with humility and determination.

It is important that I honour the wisdom of those who came before us and work hard to build and create opportunity and hope for the young people and generations to come.

I have to remember during times of elections and campaigns, our Elders have told us to show leadership every day, through character, kindness, honesty, humility, and the willingness to serve everyone and think of the future generations to come.

These principles guide how I live and lead. Strong leadership also requires representing our community well, building respectful relationships, and creating partnerships that bring opportunity, stability, and progress back home.

I come forward again with gratitude for the trust our community has already placed in me. It is important to me to always put the needs of our people first.

Our past gives us strength. Our unity gives us power. And our future is worth working for every single day.

With respect and humility,

James (Jim) T. Harris

*No
photo
submitted*