

# EDIE KARACSONYI

CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL



Hello, my name is Edith Karacsonyi. I am the daughter of Lillian Thomas and Istvan Karacsonyi. I grew up in Hope, BC and moved to Seabird in 1985. My mother was a member of Seabird. Her mother was Lucy Phillips, and her father was Fred Thomas (from Seabird). I grew up being the second youngest sibling of 9. My husband is Randy Pettis, and children are Jessica, Megan, Rebecca, Randy Jr and Keah. I have 11 grandchildren, most of my family live on Seabird. My family is very important to me, and we love to travel.

Since living on Seabird, I have been involved in many committees and groups. I have contributed to both the Membership and Housing committees in the past and had been on the Education committee for almost 30 years. I believe community input is critical to ensure you are hearing the community and meeting their needs and believe in the motto “Nothing about us without us” should even apply at the Band level. I have also been involved in fundraising in the past for the Elders group, family travel club, youth group and soccer groups so that people could attend tournaments and get to travel.

I currently work as a social worker, but past work experience has included: Indigenous support worker in schools, home school coordinator, cook & waitress, chambermaid (my first job!), youth and Elders’ coordinator, supervisor of social assistance, Elders, youth and summer programs and coordinator of events. I also managed child and family programs for many years including justice program, mental health, family homes, family development program and was the designated Band Representative for child protection.

Education has always been a passion for me, working towards giving everyone an opportunity to access education in a fair and equitable manner. I believe education helps people be able to get better jobs, and provide better for their families, thus leading more healthy lifestyles and a healthier

community. I hold a BSW with a specialization in child protection, MSW and PIDP Diploma.

In my master’s program I was able to research how important culture is to healing and really believe that culture is the foundation for healing. I was lucky to have my MSW be Indigenous focused, so also had the opportunity to learn about UNDRIP and inherent rights and titles. It also reinforced that Indigenous communities are capable and know what is best for their communities.

I have a lot of experience in advocating and using my excellent communication skills to find common ground in disputes while respecting individual, family and community values. Other important values I believe in are accountability, transparency, honesty, communication and trust. Important topics I would look forward to being involved in if elected to council would be culture (including traditional teachings and healing), child & family services, education and employment, mental health and addictions, and Elder and youth care. My goal on council would be working together towards a healthy and self-sufficient community. Thank you, and good luck to all!

