

PGST Family and Friends,

I am writing to express my intent to run for the position of Chairperson in the upcoming 2023 special election for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. My name is Amber Caldera (Seachord). I am the proud granddaughter of Darlene Seachord (Wellman), Ginger Ives (Jones), and the daughter of Tim Seachord and Danno Ives. For the last 20 years, I have been blessed to share my life with my husband, Jordan, and together, we are raising our three children within the warm embrace of our cherished Reservation, our home.

My educational journey has been driven by a profound commitment to better serve our Tribe. I have diligently pursued higher education to equip myself with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute effectively to our community. I hold an Associates Degree from the Northwest Indian College, a Bachelors Degree from the Evergreen State College, and a Masters of Legal Studies Degree in Indigenous Law from the University of Oklahoma. For the past 14 years, my professional path has been dedicated to serving our Tribe through the Children and Family Services Department. This invaluable experience has provided me with a deep understanding of the unique needs and challenges facing our community. Furthermore, I have had the privilege of representing our Tribe as Councilperson IV for the past three years. This role has allowed me to actively engage in tribal governance and work toward the betterment of our people. My educational background and extensive experience within our community uniquely positions me to take on the responsibilities of the Chairperson role and continue serving our Tribe with dedication and capability.

I have been committed to upholding professionalism and nurturing positive relationships both within and beyond the workplace. It has been my privilege to serve as the Council Liaison for several critical groups, including the Tribal Education Advisory Board, the Law-and-Order Committee, the Lot Advisory Committee and the Nookayet Board. Attending these meetings has provided me with firsthand knowledge, which helps me to advocate effectively for our community, and contribute to informed decision-making that aligns with our collective goals and priorities.

Advocating for our people is a responsibility I hold in the highest regard. I have actively supported monetary benefits for our people, such as elder/tribal member discounts at our enterprises, increasing the Elder's distribution payments, eliminating fish taxes, and accelerating the distribution of COVID relief funds during challenging times. I also believe in maintaining an open-door policy, which serves as the cornerstone of effective communication and collaboration within our community. I understand that some individuals may be hesitant to voice their concerns or complaints, for various reasons. As your elected representative, I am deeply committed to being a voice for those who may not feel comfortable speaking up. I am dedicated to making the time to listen to your needs and bring these important issues to the table. My recent advocacy on behalf of enterprise employees at the Nookayet Board meeting is a testament to this commitment. My advocacy led to immediate steps being taken to address the issues.

I have found that it is important to have a guiding principle that ensures decisions and actions align with the broader interests of our people. My guiding force has become, "What would General Council want me to do or say?" This demonstrates my deep commitment to democracy

and the will of our community members. It emphasizes the importance of seeking input and consensus from the General Council, as they represent the collective voice and values of our Tribe. I do not hesitate to remind anyone about the chain of command and how the General Council is at the TOP, always.

I firmly believe in the importance of nurturing positive relationships with external entities as a cornerstone for the growth and prosperity of our Tribe. I have actively worked to cultivate collaborative partnerships at a government-to-government level and am unwavering in my commitment to continue these efforts, drawing upon my experience to further enhance the well-being of our community. Examples of such collaborations include our engagement with the North Kitsap School District to ensure our students receive culturally sensitive and high-quality education, our cooperation with neighboring tribes to foster support and collaboration on shared interests, our dialogue with the Navy and Army Corps to address land use, environmental concerns, regional projects, and safeguard our treaty rights, as well as our interactions with Federal and State Agencies to navigate legislative and regulatory matters impacting our Tribe. I have excelled at representing our Tribe solely at Federal/Tribal Consultations regarding social services and have discovered this type of work is my true passion. My legal background and deep understanding of federal and state laws uniquely position me to defend our Tribal Government from external intrusions and I am committed to protecting our sovereignty fiercely, and at all costs.

In my initial intent letter, I refrained from making promises, as I believed it was essential to gain a deep understanding of our Tribe's inner workings first. Now armed with that knowledge, I am prepared to put forth meaningful changes aimed at enhancing our community. These goals, in no particular order, encompass various aspects, including increasing Elders' payments and transitioning to monthly distributions to help them cope with the escalating cost of living. Additionally, I aspire to introduce more Elder/Youth social activities and explore the possibility of establishing an assisted living facility to improve their quality of life. Advocating for affordable housing suitable for all income groups, fully funding education and trade school expenses, and eventually establishing our tribal school are also on my agenda. Recognizing the importance of prioritizing sensitivity during shoreline relocation efforts is a key aspect and figuring out a way to support our fisherman in retirement without social security. Addressing the low rate of tribal members employed within our enterprises and implementing cultural training programs for non-tribal employees is another crucial focus area. Furthermore, I am committed to continuing the work on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples response plan through available grant funding and conducting a comprehensive review of tribal policies to identify areas of effectiveness and needed improvements. As well as ensuring our policies are followed consistently and not merely when convenient.

I also would like to reclaim the pieces of Tribal Council authority that have been assigned away. Doing so acknowledges the trust bestowed upon us by the General Council through their votes. I firmly believe that this trust is at the heart of our duty, as General Council members place their confidence in us through the election process. It concerns me that so much authority resides with staff members who were not elected by the people. I would like to explore amending the Nookayet Business Charter to broaden the Council's authority beyond just budget oversight, including control over essential resources like food and hotel accommodation in emergency situations. It is crucial for the Council to possess the authority to make critical decisions, with

input and recommendations from the Emergency Response Team, rather than the other way around, as it is now. I also believe in ensuring law enforcement accountability, with a focus on protecting our people while upholding proper protocols. This includes maintaining the integrity of our power to exclude non-tribals by enforcing our zero-tolerance drug policies and physically removing violators from our reservation boundaries. Also, utilizing our special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction provisions, which allow us to exercise criminal jurisdiction over specific non-Indians who violate protection orders or engage in domestic or dating violence against members of our Tribe. I take pride in our two tribal members in the force and will support initiatives to encourage more tribal and community members to join, strengthening our connection with those who safeguard our community.

My commitment is genuine in serving our community with transparency, fairness, and accountability, always upholding the trust our General Council has placed in us through their votes. Many of the initiatives I've mentioned are already in progress, and I will continue advancing them, regardless of this election outcome, via my current Council position. However, the results will be prolonged, as serving on Council while working full-time in CFS prevents me from providing 100% dedication to either job. I would love the ability to focus on these tasks exclusively. My main focus would be on our community, as I would have no other commitments. I am finished with my higher education, and I do not harvest commercially, which means zero distractions and complete concentration.

Since my teenage years, I've aspired to become Chairwoman, which drove my commitment to higher education. I just never imagined the time would come so soon and under such heartbreaking circumstances. Jeromy's leadership has been inspiring, and I'm honored to have witnessed and learned from him firsthand. I understand the significant responsibility of following in his footsteps. While I won't promise perfection, I'll give my utmost effort. I plan to improve my communication skills by taking public speaking and S'Klallam language classes. I pledge honesty and integrity, while having compassion for those facing challenges. I'll safeguard services for mental health, addiction, special needs, and trauma, always prioritizing our people's needs. With deep community roots, education, Council experience, knowledge of tribal processes and procedures, I am the ideal candidate to prevent delays in critical projects, while fostering an accessible, transparent environment.

I believe that serving our community means actively engaging with our people, listening to their voices, and taking meaningful action to improve their lives. I am committed to upholding these principles, working to cultivate a harmonious, inclusive, and supportive environment for all Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe members. This is not merely a job to me; it is our family, our life, our everything. I personally have been shaped by the values, morals, and beliefs of our people throughout my lifetime, and I want to continue giving back to show my gratitude. I believe that together, we can continue to build a bright future for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, by bringing positive change to the lives of our people. With deep respect, I humbly request your support in the upcoming election.

Please vote Amber Caldera for Chairwoman of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.