



**Wet'suwet'en First Nation re-elects Chief Luggi  
Councillor Nooski also re-elected along with Tracey Joseph**

**(Wet'suwet'en First Nation Territory - Burns Lake, BC)** - On May 30, 2022, the Wet'suwet'en First Nation concluded its election for one Chief and two Councillors, who will serve for a three-year term from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2025.

The successful candidates are incumbent Maureen Luggi, Chief and elected Councillors Heather Nooski and Tracey Joseph. A total of 97 ballots were cast with voters being able to vote for the Chief and up to two Councillors. The results of the vote were:

Chief Candidate	Votes	Councillor Candidate	Votes
Luggi, Maureen	48	Joseph, Tracey	67
Ogen, Karen	15	Nooski, Heather	33
Turner, Sharon	34	Tom, Angelica	31
		Paulson, Joseph	29
<b>Total Votes for Chief</b>	<b>97</b>	Turner, Viola	13

Newly re-elected Chief Maureen Luggi stated “Our new Council has big challenges ahead. Covid is still with us and just will not let us plan and move forward like we want to. We have to continue to protect our access to the resources and wealth of our territories against government negotiations with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, and we still have social issues, housing shortages, and all of the other concerns we have faced for generations.

“But, we have a strong and experienced Council, our affairs are in order from the last term and we have a great team of staff and contractors! So, we are ready for the challenges.” Luggi repeated her win from 2019 and also held the office of Chief of Wet'suwet'en First Nation from 1987 - 2007.

“I learned so much in my first term and look forward to serving our people on- and off-reserve for another three years.” stated Councillor Heather Nooski. Nooski was re-elected as a Councillor from the 2019-2022 term.

Councillor Tracey Joseph stated “I am honoured to work with my community and I am here to offer fair representation, honest communication and accountability in my role as Councillor.” This elected position is the first for Joseph who previously served the First Nation as General Manager and in other staff positions.

A swearing in ceremony was held on May 31st at 10am for the Chief and Council.

The conduct of the election was managed by Drew Shaw, Electoral Officer with OneFeather, Victoria, BC.

-30-

**For more information, contact:**

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## **Backgrounder**

### **Biographical Information**

#### **Maureen Luggi**

Maureen is of Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en & Stelat'en ancestry and was born and raised in Burns Lake, British Columbia. She is a member of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation and was the elected Chief of her community from 1987 - 2007, and again from 2019-2022.

She has a Certificate in Administration of Aboriginal Governments from the University of Victoria and is certified in Conflict Resolution and First Nations Negotiations Skills by the Justice Institute of BC, and a Public Relations Certificate from Simon Fraser University. She is an accredited First Nations Electoral Officer and is certified in Expanded Emotional Intelligence and the Art & Science of Coaching with Erickson International and is a Neuro-Linguistic Programming Practitioner and Master Practitioner.

Maureen has operated her own business which provides management, executive coordination, leadership, facilitation, proposal writing and electoral services. She has more than 30 years' experience working with Indigenous & non-Indigenous communities, companies and non-profit organizations and has served as an Indigenous representative and Director on the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Society, is a shareholder the Burns Lake Native Development Corporation, and as member of Carrier Sekani Family Services Society, BC Assembly of First Nations Governance Committee, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association, Burns Lake Native Logging, Babine Forest Products, Decker Lake Forest Products, District Indigenous Leadership Council and Shareholder Chinook ComFor.

She is skilled in project management and event planning, having established & implemented an Indigenous Housing First homelessness project on behalf of the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association and established the very successful Lheidli T'enneh Pavilion at the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George.

Maureen is viewed as the main spokesperson among the elected Wet'suwet'en councils for dealing with the secret treaty that is being negotiated under an MOU between some of the hereditary chiefs, Canada, and British Columbia. This has become a very important role as the MOU has gained much national and provincial attention over the past two years.

Maureen has also served as General Manager of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation and has a strong background in budget development & financial management, report writing, program implementation, community consultation, engagement & collaboration, and governance policy development and implementation. She has extensive experience chairing meetings of all sizes, committees, working groups and guiding teams. She also worked as a Treaty Negotiator with her First Nation and as Communications Coordinator with the Lheidli T'enneh Treaty Office.

She maintains a keen interest in communications, media, politics, and reading. Maureen has 3 children and 4 grandchildren

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## **Biographical Information**

### **Heather Nooski**

Heather Nooski is of Gitksan, Stelat'en, Nadleh Whut'en and Wet'suwet'en ancestry. Heather served her first term as Councillor from 2019-2022.

She has experience as a Community Health Promoter with Maskwacis Health Services in Maskwacis, Alberta. Heather is a front-line worker in Health and has received her certificate in Community Health Promotions from the University of Alberta extended facility. Her training background includes Culinary Arts, Level 1; HIV/Aids & Hepatitis C; Occupational First Aid; Infant/Car seat installation, and Suicide Prevention. She worked with the health departments; Community Health nurses, Diabetes department; Nurse Practitioner, nurse, dietician, and specialist. She is a former Education Assistant at Ermineskin Junior High School, Ermineskin Elementary School, Maskwacis, Alberta and Substitute Teachers Aide at Ermineskin Kindergarten, and the Community School, Maskwacis, Alberta. Heather is currently enrolled in the first year NVIT – Nadueten & Witsuwit'en Language Program and will be certified December 2022. She wishes to continue in 2023 for her second-year diploma.

She volunteered as a Board Member with the 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships and the Aboriginal Sport Circle to promote hockey for Indigenous Youth Athletes. Heather was also a Female Youth Representative, on the Canadian Association of Advancement for Women in Sport & Physical Activity in Ottawa, Ontario and her main purpose was to encourage Indigenous women and girls in sports. Her other volunteer work includes being the Female Youth Representative for the Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Association in Vancouver, BC, of which she received board training and her purpose was to encourage more Youth in Sports. Heather also volunteered under a Youth Development Program with Carrier Sekani Family Services in Prince George, BC to work with Youth and participated in a Train the Trainers program with Jane Middleton-Moz.

Heather is passionate about Indigenous leadership and opportunities to work with Elders, Youth, and Indigenous communities, particularly in promoting Health, Wellness & Sports. She easily develops rapport with people and communicates well publicly, on behalf of her former employer at Maskwacis Health Services.

Heather is the vice-president of Burns Lake Native Development Corporation, and sits on board for Carrier Sekani Family Services, First Nations LNG Alliance, and many committees. She has taken part in multiple high-profile meetings with other nations leaders. Her goal is to get her degree in business & administration to continue the positive work being done at Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

She is an avid player in slo-pitch since the age of 7 years old and a mother to one son. She encourages her son Beckett in organized sports that include hockey, baseball, lacrosse, and soccer.

### **Backgrounder**

## **Biographical Information**

## **Tracey Joseph**

Tracey Joseph is of Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en ancestry. She was born in Prince George BC where she lived until the age of 10 when she returned to Burns Lake with her parents Louise Turner and the late Mervin Turner and her sisters. Her mother was a Councillor in the past and shared her experiences and accomplishments with Tracey.

Tracey completed the Applied Business Technology (ABT) program at the College of New Caledonia (CNC) in 2005-2006 with honours. She also completed the online Bookkeeping Certificate Program with the CNC in 2021. Working for Wet'suwet'en First Nation for 13 years, she was able to take training such as Emotional Intelligence, Negotiation Skills, Project Management, and Leadership Skills. She was also funded by the First Nation to attend the Choices seminars and the Hoffman Process to embark on self-healing.

After graduating from the ABT course, she was hired by Wet'suwet'en First Nation as the Housing Coordinator/Family Care Worker. This was a brief appointment at the time Carrier Sekani Family Services moved from funding member First Nations for the Family Care Worker to implementing the Family Preservation Worker within CSFS. There were no family cases in the Nation and Tracey liked to keep busy; thus, Tracey resigned from the position and accepted the Executive Assistant Position with Wet'suwet'en First Nation. This has given insight to Chief and Council and management roles and responsibilities. In one year, she was promoted to Finance Officer and remained in the position until January 2016, when she was promoted to General Manager where she remained until 2019. These three positions had three different levels of responsibility but made it clearer how Chief and Council and management operate.

She has been employed with the Lake Babine Nation since January 4, 2022. She is committed to that position but is also committed to being an elected Councillor for Wet'suwet'en First Nation and will balance the two responsibilities. Now that she is a Council member, she will also be submitting her resignation from the Yinka Dene Economic Development Ltd Partnership Board of Directors.

Tracey has been married to her husband Tim Joseph Sr for 17 years as of July 2022. They have two wonderful sons, Timothy Joseph Jr and Rylan Joseph. Timothy Jr will be graduating grade 12 in June 2022 and has been accepted into UNBC in September 2022. Rylan will be graduating grade 7 and going into high school in September 2022.

Being back for the community in a leadership capacity will be a challenge, but a good challenge with many learning opportunities.

**Wet'suwet'en First Nation**

**Fact Sheet**

## **Community Description**

The Wet'suwet'en First Nation has 250 members and is located 17 km west of Burns Lake, BC, in the central interior of British Columbia. It was formerly known as Broman Lake Indian Band. The main community is Palling Indian Reserve #1 and the community has 10 registered reserves and extensive traditional territory as its land base.

## **Language**

The language spoken is Wet'suwet'en, which is the Nedut'en/Witsuwiten dialect of the Athabaskan Dene Language Group.

## **Tribal Affiliation**

The Wet'suwet'en First Nation is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George, BC and is a member of the Burns Lake Native Development Corporation, Burns Lake, BC.