

## Roswell (Ross) Cline - Chairman Candidate Statement January 2022

Dear Nooksack Tribal Members,

My name is Roswell James Cline (Ross) and I was born in Bellingham, Washington to Norma (Kelly) and Wilfred Cline. I come from several Nooksack original allottees including Old Antone, Skagit Tom, and Kalime. The last name Cline is the anglicized version of the Indian name Kalime.

My paternal grandparents are Thomas Harry Cline and Belinda (Antone) Cline who was the daughter of Nooksack homesteader Old Antone.

My maternal grandparents from Kilgard, BC are James Kelly and Charlotte (Uslick) Kelly.

After graduating from Nooksack Valley High School I attended Eastern Washington State College for several years. I later finished my Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning at Western Washington University. I also completed a Master's in Business Administration from University of Phoenix.

I bring to the council table a wealth of leadership experience, including being elected as Tribal Vice Chairman and assumption of the Tribal Chairman position when the Chairman seat became vacant, and I am currently serving as the elected Tribal Chairman. I have extensive professional experience working with the Nooksack Tribe in the Planning Department as a Planner, Transportation Planner, and Planning Director. I also have tribal administration experience as the Tribal Administrator overseeing the entire Nooksack Tribal government operations including Fisheries, Accounting, Human Resources, Economic Development, Health, and Social Services. I took great pride in helping to create the Nooksack River Casino and in helping to expand the size of the Nooksack Indian reservation. I currently am an active member of the Nooksack Elders Program.

As the current Nooksack Tribal Chairman, I have had the honor and privilege to serve the community on many fronts. Several accomplishments that I have been involved in as Tribal Chairman include helping to re-establish a working relationship with the federal government, acquiring multiple land parcels to expand the tribe's land base, presiding over monthly council meetings, being a part of the Covid-19 pandemic response team, successfully paying off the lien on the River Casino, and maintaining an open-door policy so that all tribal members can voice their concerns. I am also very passionate about working on water rights adjudication for the Nooksack Tribe where I can advocate for both the Nooksack people and the salmon that return home to our beloved Nooksack River. One of my proudest accomplishments as Nooksack Chairman has been appointing election superintendents with integrity so that the Nooksack people can have fair and timely elections.

I am running for Chairman because I am committed to working for the best interest of our Tribe and upholding the Nooksack Constitution. I witnessed my parents work with helping the Tribe gain federal recognition and I would like to continue the work of protecting, preserving, and advancing our Nooksack Tribe.

