

My name is Julie M Antoine Jefferson, my Indian name is Th'alatcemo:t, which was given to me from my late mother Bernita Cecelia Jimmy Antoine (Th'alatchelwet). My mother's Indian name is the female version of her uncle Richard Malloway ((Th'eláchiyatel) Indian name.

I was born and raised in Bellingham on Goshen Road up until 6 years old. Since it was difficult to find a job, my parents decided to move to Seattle where there were many jobs. In those days many Native Americans moved away to make a better living and to support their families.

Every month, my parents made sure we visited my grandparents Sindick and Susan Jimmy. I loved coming back to Goshen Rd to visit with my grandparents and having fun with all my cousins. In those days during the summer my cousins would take me to the creek down near the mission road bridge. We would spend the whole day swimming. Good times shared every year.

In 1986, I asked my mom if I could move into my grandparents home to raise my three children. It was the best decision I made to finally have a stable home for my little family. My little family is not so little now. I have 11 wonderful grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren with one on the way.

The reason I am submitting a packet to be the next Chairman of the Nooksack Tribe is because of my experience in working for tribal government. I have plans to see growth in what the Nooksack Tribe can become with all the rich resources available to us. We as Nooksack People deserve honor and respect by the county, city, state and within the United States. If you look at our history we lost a lot, but we have not lost who we are and where we are from. We will and can continue to grow as a tribe using our resources, i.e. water, forest, health, education, housing..

If elected as chairperson, I will be your voice to advocate for our culture, rights to fish, hunt and gather in our traditional way, and be given the respect we deserve and that we are all Nooksack Strong. Love you all.