

**GOROTIA DONIA EDWARDS, MEd.**  
**Thautsamaut (Traditional Indian Name)**

<b>Areas of Expertise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared and executed annual operating plans for the Education Department, and worked with other department directors in syncing annual plans and cross-departmental initiatives including providing wrap around services.</li> <li>• Participated on management plans on various matters, including statistical analysis, policy analysis, self-assessment, and work and monitoring plans, Tribe's Strategic Plan and Education Department Strategic Plans.</li> <li>• Prepared and monitored an annual program budgets</li> <li>• Conducted ongoing output and impact studies, including cost-benefit analyses for all grant funded programs within the Education Department.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional Experience</b>	<p><b>Nooksack Indian Tribe</b></p> <p><b>Education Director/Head Start Director/Youth Program Director</b> <span style="float: right;">October 2006 – Present</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for the overall management of annual budgets, report writing, evaluation, program planning, strategic planning development, sustainability of programs.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Western Washington University – Woodring College of Education Student Personnel Administration Graduate Level Student <span style="float: right;">June 2004 - October 2006</span></li> </ul> <p><b>Lummi Indian Business Council – Northwest Indian College</b> <span style="float: right;">January 2004 to June 2004</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kwina Project</b> – located heirs of property which included intensive research skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lummi Indian Business Council – Head Start Disabilities Coordinator/Intervention Teacher</b> <span style="float: right;">July 2002 to January 2004</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided assessment to determine eligibility for disability services including development of an IEP and provided intervention services</li> </ul> <p><b>Northwest Indian College Associate Registrar</b> <span style="float: right;">June 1994 to July 2002</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained student records and transcripts, served on the Accreditation Team and Curriculum Development Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Northwest Indian College Student Services Department Talent Search Guidance Counselor</b> <span style="float: right;">June 1992 to June 1994</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to succeed in higher education. Provided academic, career, and financial counseling to program participants, specifically first generation students enroll and complete a postsecondary education.</li> </ul> <p><b>Administrative Assistant to the Vice President/Dean of Northwest Indian College</b> <span style="float: right;">August 1982 to June 1992</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided administrative support activities for the Academic Dean.</li> <li>• Organized and facilitated meetings and special events</li> <li>• Carried out and coordinated administrative activities associated with academic affairs, such as tenure, contracts and promotion of faculty reporting to the Dean</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	

**Federal Grant  
Review Experience**

- Administration for Children and Families Head Start Expansion
- U. S. Department of Education Indian Education Discretionary Grant Program – Native Youth Community Program
- U. S. Department of Education Native American Language Program

**Education &  
Qualifications**

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Western Washington University/Woodring College of Education  
Master's Degree in Education – Student Personnel Administration  
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Services  
Enrolled Fall Quarter 2023 – Post Bachelors – Inclusive Classroom Teacher/Special  
Education Certificate – Western Washington University – Anticipated graduation Fall 2024

Northwest Indian College  
Direct Transfer Degree

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**References & Supporting Documentation Furnished Upon Request**





## NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Candidate Name/Nickname(s) **GOROTIA DONIA EDWARDS, MEd.**

POSITION RUNNING FOR: **TREASURER**

Most know me by Donia. My maiden name is Romero. I come from the Sulkanum allotment, of which I have lived my entire life. I am part of the legacy of Sindick and Susan Malloway Jimmy. My parents are John D. Romero and Betty Jimmy Phelps. I have been with and married to Richard Edwards for 34 years.

I would like to ask for your support as I seek election as the Tribal Treasurer. In my position as a Director, I have vast experience with budgets including solid budget planning, projections and of course finance reporting. Although not an Accountant, per se, I do have knowledge enough to interpret reports and as the Tribal Treasurer, I will provide up-to-date financial reports to the best of my knowledge as public information. As Tribal Treasurer, part of fiduciary duties in a financial sense-my decisions and acts will be in the best interest of my Tribal members as a whole and not for my own personal interest or gain. I will willingly accept the legal responsibility as the Tribal Treasurer, however, some information may not be disclosed to the public. But with confidence, I will say that, I will be mindful of your trust to gain your respect that if I withhold information it is to protect the Tribal government's integrity and confidential information, as set forth by law, and may not be shared. Simply said, as much possible, you will be an informed tribal member.

My undergraduate degree from Western Washington University is in Human Services. A key question in the human services profession is, "How can I help." I am a true Human Services provider and you will often hear me asking you that simple question in both my professional and in the hopeful tribal leader capacity. My graduate work is in Education, with a particular interest in students with disabilities. The aftermath of Covid-19 led me to return back to Western Washington University to complete a Post-bachelors degree to become Certified Teacher with an emphasis on Special Education. There is no valid reason why our children struggle with reading, writing or math. However, that loss of face-to-face instruction for almost a year, still leaves a dire strain on our youth's academics. My priority, my passion, my greatest hope will continue to help my own tribal children be successful. I will remain with the Education Department adding on the role of the Iwesteleq (in our language-this means teacher). Our kids deserve a fair and equitable education and right now the schools are not providing that. As a Tribal leader, I will have the authority to advocate and fight for system and policy change at the National Level. Other priorities of interest include mental health, the combat against fetenol and other drugs that I can't even pronounce, the homelessness and of course stress caused by the economy. As a Tribal leader, I want to become one of 8 who will address these issues and the ongoing issues of self-governance, sovereignty, our water quality, and the overall well being of our tribe.

In recap, I offer my ability to communicate complex financial reporting and financial information through my strong verbal and visual financial reporting skills in a way that my people can understand the financial stability of the Tribe. I offer strong analytical skill sets and basic accounting knowledge so that you, my people will enjoy and understand the vitality, the growth and healthy sound budgets of your tribal government. That information belongs to you, you have every right to that knowledge.

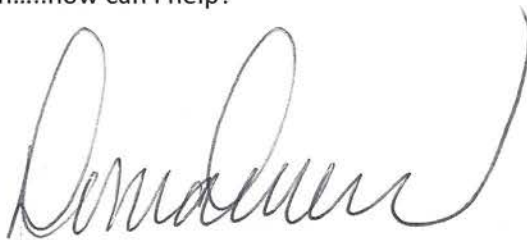
If elected or not, I will remain visible in the community, bringing forth positive contributions that benefit our kids and continue asking the question.....how can I help?

Take care and stay kind

Respectfully,

G. Donia Edwards, MEd.

Thautsamaut

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donia Edwards', written over a light blue horizontal line.