

My name is Selh'emeten II, given name Roman Swanaset-Simmonds. My parents are Roman Simmonds of Lummi and Elizabeth King George (Swanaset) of Nooksack. My paternal grandparents are the late Ward and Edith Simmonds (LaClair) of Lummi. My maternal grandparents are George Swanaset Sr. and the late Charlene Swanaset (Thomas) of Nooksack.

I was raised in Suchanon and have worked for the Nooksack Indian Tribe for approximately 17 years. Throughout my career, I have held a variety of positions, including working in the automotive shop and the Nooksack Natural Resources Department. In 2013, after successfully completing the Law Enforcement Academy in New Mexico, I joined the Nooksack Tribal Police Department. I served as a police officer and police sergeant from 2013 until the end of 2020.

In 2021, I went on to work for the Lummi Nation Police Department until 2023. After a couple years in Lummi, I returned home to Nooksack and accepted the opportunity to serve as a Lieutenant for the Nooksack Tribal Police Department. I have now dedicated 13 years to the law enforcement profession.

I decided to run for reelection to the Nooksack Tribal Council, Position A, because there is still important work to be done. Many projects require continued attention, and significant decisions remain regarding policies, land use, economic development opportunities, and the continuation of ongoing projects. Economic growth must remain a priority so the Nooksack Indian Tribe can become more self-sufficient and sustainable for future generations.

After serving on the Tribal Council for four years, I have learned that each council member is one voice at the table—one vote. There are times when decisions are made that not all members agree with; however, we must stand by the collective decisions of the council. We are guided by our ancestors, previous councils, and the people we serve.

Our ancestors established guidance within the Nooksack Bylaws, specifically *Article II, Meetings and Procedures, Section 2*, which states that the Tribal Council shall meet regularly on the first Tuesday of each month at the tribal offices. This law ensures that Nooksack people have the opportunity to attend meetings, ask questions, and voice concerns regarding tribal matters and council decisions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous councils who came before us and helped pave the way to where we are today—my hands go up to you. I also thank the Nooksack membership for allowing me the honor of serving you over the past four years.

Thank you for taking the time to read my candidate statement. I am open to any questions.