

Daniel L. Nanamkin -Thunder and Lightning. Nespelem District Position #2

From the beginning of time, our chp tilxw (tribal creation legends) taught our people to understand our spiritual connection to this land. We were rich people with clean waters, plentiful natural food sources and plant medicines. We were given wisdom contained in the creation stories, language and healing songs. We were given a responsibility as stewards and protectors of this land by the sacred laws that kept us in harmony with all life. Our people were strong and healthy and were known to be kind, hospitable and generous.

Colonization began here only around two hundred years ago.

These past four years I devoted myself to heal from historic trauma and remove the destructive patterns of assimilation from my life. I strengthened my walk with our creator kwul'nchutn. My faith was tested to the core at Standing Rock. Yet, I stood strong representing our Colville Tribal culture proudly and became a leader for humanity. I have built strong relationships throughout Indian country with proactive indigenous environmental and social justice leaders and organizations. I currently serve as a Capacity team committee member for the Front and Centered foundation (Seattle), which is the largest color led legislative committee working toward equity, social and environmental justice here in the Pacific Northwest. These connections may be helpful for our people when it comes time for action

I speak nationally and internationally as well locally for indigenous and environmental rights. Volunteering seems a passion because I do it at many places such as: colleges, grade schools, community cultural events, TV, radio, news, documentaries and the Ted Talk stage.

The sewelqw (water), temxwulough (mother earth), Timixw (wild life) require us to talk for them. It is an honor to do so. We must never downgrade our traditional knowledge. The world is becoming more aware and receptive to the importance of indigenous knowledge during climate change. Through understanding our belief systems we may understand what we need to do right here and now and how to protect the longevity of our people and our lands. We are going to need each other and be prepared for those changes. My campaign war cry is:

"Together we shall rise!"

Water: is Life! As of December Wall Street has begun trading water futures as a commodity (Bloomberg news). This will soon create a water scarcity issue and

pricing of water in control of financial institutions that ultimately will create hardships for the poor. Other costs expected to rise: food, fuel and more.

Recently I joined a discussion with Elders/wisdom keepers of the Okanogan Nation Alliance BC. They too expressed a concern for our water ways and a desire to solidify our efforts as a nation to protect our most vital resource. I have traveled throughout the Pacific Northwest to create relationships with tribal leaders in our region. If I were elected to this position, I will advocate for tribal trade networks and tribal nation relationship building.

Food Security: We all have relatives suffering from: diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, obesity and so forth. We must become more combative toward the health risks (caused by GMO's, mono cropping, pesticides and processed foods) by improving the quality and the availability of healthy organic foods as well improving education of these and wild natural foods. We can prevent premature deaths and sickness for our at risk population. Most families cannot afford healthy organic produce. I understand the hardships of surviving on EBT like many of you. We must applaud the efforts of our food distribution program and recognize their contributions during this time.

For the past three years I have written grants and invited permaculture experts, outdoor survivalists and green energy inventors to share skills and knowledge with our community. We shared all the food we grew with our communities in time of dire need. Now, we are helping the convalescent center, Paschal Sherman school to start their own organic food gardens. If we control our food, we control our future! This is true sovereignty.

There is a food preservation method I am learning about, that is easy to use and makes it possible to safely store foods up to 25 years and still maintain their nutritional values. We conducted a taste test in which elders were able to eat foods like apples that they couldn't eat otherwise because of their teeth. For kids, they really enjoyed eating some of the fruits and vegetables that normally they don't like. Its storage and ease would be ideal for any emergency or to help families or community events. Due to limited storage space and no food preservation method our tribal food program has no choice but to throw tons of food away each month. This may be a solution to save food while saving our tribe a wealth of money. We could be assured we have food storage for any situation.

A sovereign nation can feed itself! We must promote and develop our own local agriculture. I see kids eating raw uncooked top ramen straight from the bag then

wash it down with a large monster energy drink. We need to take this more seriously!

LAND BACK: Traditional food gatherers and hunters understand the challenges, risk and hardships of searching for plentiful food sources off our reservation. Often we never feel welcome or safe in our old home lands. I would like to see large tribal only hunting and gathering grounds off the reservation boundaries.

I support any efforts to regain our sacred land back. I want our tribal presence to be recognized in all our tribal homeland territory. I have been actively building relationships in those areas, and will continue to stand strong to exercise our perpetual existence in our homelands.

Next week, I will be speaking at the North Central Washington economic forum. In attendance will include governmental agencies and business leaders. I will discuss land acknowledgment and our inherent connections to our home land territories.

Community: I was the director for the Nespelem Community Center for nearly ten years. I encouraged hard work and trained entry level employees to develop team work, communication skills and to stand proudly amongst the best service minded leaders of our tribe.

We saved the tribe tens of thousands of dollars each year by doing the labor work ourselves. We did not receive much support, guidance and had a modest budget to work with, such as our youth/community events was budgeted \$500 yearly. I worked hard to make fun community events happen. And, I am grateful for all the community volunteers who contributed in so many ways. I enjoyed the community fun times and like you, miss them right now. It was an honor to do that for our people. I would be honored to personally help support more community events to celebrate our unity and healing once it is safe to do so.

Due to lack of financial support, I regularly personally sponsored these events to make them possible. It would have taken hundreds of thousands of dollars to hire professionals to do what our hard workers had provided for our community. I am proud to say we did the best we could and each year we came under budget which was always a huge victory.

I worked hard to design many projects and advocated to past tribal council for support. Some of these projects were started before I left and have not yet been completed. I would like to encourage each of these projects to be completed and I listed

other community projects I would support whole heartedly. I listen to my community these are things they have asked for. I am surprised they are not completed yet. I will do all I can for you.

- The new tribal long house (design, location and initial funding were completed)
- NCC kitchen remodel. (was in the works and funded with quam quam funds)
- Outdoor basketball courts and sports field (lost to gov't building)
- Elevator at NCC-for the elderly and handicapped and funeral processions
- New gym floor for the NCC basketball court
- Walking trail system
- I will also advocate for the Nez Perce Long house
- Boys and girls club: they need their own building
- Most importantly I will be a strong advocate for the new elders convalescent center
- Lastly, one day I hope our wellness center is built. I drafted a conceptual drawing and shared that vision with Womer and assoc. who helped me draft a super amazing 3D computer graphic of what this could look like. One day I hope our children will enjoy that swimming pool, water slides, full size weight room, sauna, Jacuzzi, racquetball court, and a 2nd basketball court.

“Go to the stronghold!” I envision a cultural stronghold for all our communities. Imagine, a cultural village (pit houses, teepees, sweat lodge, root cellar, sacred fire, food preservation areas, etc.). A safe community place where everyone is invited to go anytime they wanted to learn our cultural ways of life. Learn skills like hide tanning, meat drying, beading, dancing, singing, tule mat making, pit cooking, basketry, stick game, horseback riding, as well revive our rites of passages; a place to heal from historic trauma, learn our language, creation stories and songs. Imagine the happiness from our children living with their culture in an environment where they are always fed, honored, valued and protected by our warriors and lovingly taught by elders.

We have many skilled **tribal artists** creating amazing art and even winning major national awards. Why not support all that talent and help our people earn some income at the same time? Here locally we have people skilled in: beading, sewing, basketry, crafting, jewelry making ... We have film makers, poets, documentary creators, photographers, computer graphic designers, marketers, artists, musicians, poets, actors, music recording engineers, writers, videographers, and so much

more. We could be helping each other learn new talents and marketing our talents to help people earn income and enjoy creating arts, music and culture.

While working at the community center I built a nice music studio there with brand new music and film equipment. I tested out a short wave radio station and it worked. Having a radio/internet radio station or video could offer better emergency response that could save lives and property. It can expand services for language and culture. It can improve communication and transparency of tribal council and other programs.

Off reservation tribal members are valued as part of our community. I know what it is like to live off the Rez and have the same concerns many have expressed. I am open to hear your voice and listen to new ideas. I am solution oriented and a great networker and team player. Here are a few ideas to consider, but I would like to hear your advice:

Service: I agree we need to feel valued when we call or leave a message. I check phone messages first part of the day and always return phone calls/emails. I like to be highly organized and goal oriented.

One possible solution may be to create a community advocate service position - a service friendly liaison devoted to documenting and following through with phone/email requests, complaints or concern and offer some administrative support. Someone who will let people know they are being heard and assure follow up will be completed and signed off.

Our off reservation tribal community members hold an instrumental key that can create valuable working networks within the communities they reside and work. Many work closely with tribes and within urban areas where we are not connected. They can become contributors and ambassadors for our tribe. We must align ourselves and plan alongside them to improve communication/services and promote economic diversity by thinking more globally. One idea we could consider if supported were to consider a cultural resource center in key populated areas; a tribal meeting spot that also serves to provide resources, and can help locate jobs/housing and more.

Elders: The new convalescent center must advance and be built. I love our elders and want the best care for them and upgrades to all their equipment and TV's. Using modern technology they could visit far away relatives via the internet zoom or

portal. I support health care/nursing training for our own tribal members. I think we should honor all those workers for keeping our elders safe.

Being a caretaker for an elder myself, I notice the MOU between public works and housing authority leaves elders and families who are not living in a HUD home, without any support. Many are low income and cannot afford repairs, safety walk ways, and/or maintenance. This MOU needs to be revisited or more support giving to public works to do get the equipment/training to help our people.

Teach our younger generation to be of service, to listen, to cut wood, drive for them, help them out, hunt/fish for them, protect them, become handy men and offer help. Where are our Warriors at?

Youth: For over 20 years, I have worked with tribal youth. Some of your kids have seen me at the creek and lake this summer. I asked them to help me pick up the trash by the water. I hate the graffiti and garbage strewn disrespectfully around our beautiful homelands, I will inspire the youth to become more active to care more and will fund some garbage pickup events. I have great networks that could help offer opportunities for our youth in, acting, film, modeling, music, and wellness. I want our kids to experience the world. I will support our youth programs to embrace our culture.

I wrote grants to develop the Young Warrior Society land Sovereignty Camp. The local Boys and Girls club and tribal schools came to learn about self-resiliency, permaculture and cultural survival skills. The Washington State Teachers artist training lab awarded me a scholarship where I am currently training to develop indigenous land based education curriculum and find educational resource materials that can support our local schools. I want to help decrease drop outs rates and will advocate for our Indian culture/history to be promoted into the mainstream classrooms. This may be a solution to help decrease drop outs and bullying.

Matriarchs: At one time, I was told we lived in a matriarchal society. I value the wisdom and strength of our women. Us men need to heal our broken circles and break this cycle of violence and uplift the voices of our women. I will support removing the ethics committee out of the hands of tribal council. If our elders agreed, I would propose we place council ethics into the hands of a committee comprised of elder matriarchs.

Jobs/training; We need trades to put people to work right away for example: medical health for elderly care workers, maintenance, electrical, plumbing, handy man,

transportation, culinary, grants writing, carpentry, mechanical, agriculture, technology, construction , etc. I would like to see our tribal members working in our woods and roads earning that big pay. I support TERO. We need to look at green energy, soil technology, tiny houses, earth ships, solar power, composting, and water and more.

Hemp: Our tribal members in legal standing (no drug conviction) could potentially earn income with hemp sales by developing a co-op with the tribe if that were an option to consider. Each of us owns a small parcel of land. With training and strict protocols, members could contribute to the tribes overall production of this medicine plant. There are many high dollar uses for Hemp that is sky rocketing in the global market. We need to all have a chance to earn some of those dollars. Our own people could benefit from the medicine. While other uses could be to make hempcrete homes, fiber production for clothing and even food.

Prevention: I do support prevention programs. I have worked in health and wellness programs for over a decade. I self-enrolled into a native 90 day treatment program long ago. In a few days I will celebrate 13 years of sobriety. Maintaining recovery after leaving treatment is the challenge. In my personal experience it took community and culture to help me. Due to the challenges of the prevention centers location in Keller, we are going to need supportive ideas to assure the success for our people in recovery. I, like many of you, wish our voices were being considered before decisions that involve us all are made.

Emergency/safety: I have worked voluntarily to support emergency response aid to support fire fighters and victims of fires. What I identify is a major concern is the lack of a clear emergency plan by our tribe. I have experience servicing during our largest fire in Washington State history as well during last summer's devastating fires. I supported with food drives and witnessed the hard work by the River Warrior Society and many awesome community people reservation wide. When it comes to safety, loss of property, homes and lives there should never be any delay or political red tape to hinder the efforts of the community people who step up to the plate. I would offer my help to protect our people reservation wide during emergencies by helping offer experience and ideas to create a plan. Working as the community center director I realize first hand there are other emergencies that are also experienced and as an environmentalist I know we must prepare for major emergencies for the future.

Law enforcement: Since we have now invested over 14 million in a treatment center there I would support a very strong stance to protect our streets, our homes

and our roads. Our women and children and elders should not have to live in fear. Being a former tribal police officer who graduated from the State Police Academy and was awarded officer of the year 1991, I will give support to our law enforcement and Natural resources. I also will do what I can to protect our tribal people from being harassed by non tribal police at our border towns. I worked on missing and lost searches. I would also like to show more support to the wonderful job that Chief Hix is doing there. We must get the communication and equipment to assure all our people will be safe and that we bring them home.

Veterans: I stood proudly with them at the front lines of Standing Rock. I sing for them as they march in our tribal flags at pow wows and even when we honor them at their funerals. Some may not be receiving services; some may be homeless on the streets living in dilapidated homes. Some may be struggling with PTSD and trauma. Our warriors should always walk amongst us as honored leaders. Experiencing a touch of it myself I have more compassion and understanding. I would gladly sit down in council with these warriors and hear them out.

Homeless: We have neighbors using generators for heat and plastic tarps for insulation during winter; and those without running water, filling jugs up at water taps. We must identify these neighbors and their needs. I would like to see what can be taken care of with the ARPA funding. We can develop carpentry and construction training programs that could put funds into tribal trainee's homes so they are learning a new trade while earning pay and doing something very positive by helping create a beautiful tiny home.

Sadly our recycle center is down. I would like to see that picked back up. With some of the materials there we could have been building some pretty amazing earth ships. This is a wild new technology. We have the resources to build them available right here around us. I have friends who make them. Look them up and see what you think for yourself.

We lived in Standing Rock without electricity or running water, using compost toilets and surviving winter blizzards cold as minus 50 below zero. I stayed my time in teepees and in yurts. I also love the concept of our traditional pit houses which is just beautiful. I wonder if anyone ever considered some of these temporary solutions. They cost would be very low cost and could be supported with solar energy.

Rez wide voting: I support reservation wide voting and also welcome input how we may support our off reservation members voice to be heard. I have a very bold idea to share that could break down the buddy system and also some of the fears of

large family grasp on those positions. If I make it to the next round of voting I'll share that exciting idea with you

Soon, the **American Rescue Plan Act ARPA** which is similar to the CARES act funding will become available. Some will be distributed very soon to all tribal governments to make big decisions. Some will be grant based. This funding will create an opportunity for our tribe to do positive things for healthcare, substance abuse, housing improvement, healthcare, mental health, language preservation, native education, small business, child care, emergency assistance to child and family, capital projects, lost revenue, agricultural and livestock, and possibly roads. There is some funding that will have some flexibility and some will have additional time to spend.

This is what brings me here today. Many choices will be made with the ARPA funding by the sitting tribal council. I want all our current council as well new candidates to review this letter I'm sharing with you. Many of these ideas come right here from working at the front lines with our people thru their hardest moments in their lives and those struggling to find somewhere to live and inspiration for just another day. I have done all I could to do my very best to answer everyone's requests and even demands of me.

We have to understand however, the comfortable world we lived in is no longer. This is a time of great change and each of us are going to have to work together to pick up the pieces. However, connected to our Indian ways we can see it is a great opportunity to create a better future for our children. I am not here to sell our natural resources or say money is going to save us. Our ancestors were very rich people because they knew what really mattered in life...our children. They knew when we lived together in unity and support each other we all became their teachers and their protectors. We showed them what matters most, happiness and safety. When we showed the teachings of our waters, our mountains, our respect for the plants and the animals they would always have food and health in their bodies. When we told and walked with them thru our creation stories, rites of passages and ceremonies they would always have healing and peace in their hearts generation after generation after generation.

We have to remember how special our ways of life are. We are not in competition against one another. We should not be yelling and saying rumors and acting selfish or mean to one another. That is the design of assimilation and the effects of historic trauma. We must break these cycles of violence and stand strong right here and now for the healing of our nation.

I am very humble and will listen to anyone, even the brother needing quarters on the street. I am no better than anyone. I have experienced life in the same struggle, same humility and desperation as many of you. To run for tribal council these campaigns are very expensive. For some it's only one week's pay to do so. For some of us this is a years' worth of income to take this stand to serve our people. I believe in our creator and thru what comes to my heart I am here to believe in whatever this experience shall become. It is an honor to stand up with these words which represent our way of life.

In closing:

There are great candidates you may choose from. There will be many first time voters so please be very sure you follow the instructions closely so your vote is counted. Seeing my fellow Water Protector Sisters elected into the White House in Washington DC certainly inspired me to find courage to run. However, it is during a morning sunrise prayer that touched my spirit and challenged me to find faith and courage to take this step forward. Here I am, I am protected and I am ready to commit my service for my Colville tribal people and continue to be a voice for our lands, culture and for our future generations.

Regardless of the outcome, I walk humbly forward in faith, love and respect with you my relatives.

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(Please go to my web site and look at the video 2020 *The Year of the Warrior* as well as our Young Warrior Society land camp videos. You will see some of the education and inspiration we are sharing here with our youth.)