

Hello, my name is Eleanor George and I am running for Council in the upcoming election on November 22, 2018 at the Lower Kootenay Band Hall. It is my opinion that Chief and Council should always work for their band and with their band in total honesty and transparency, thereby eliminating any need for suspicion of any kind. If we all work together, in this way, we all can take credit for future accomplishments.

Up, until, I was 5 years old, I lived here on this reserve with my Grandfather, John George and my Grandmother, Susan George. At that time, some of my best memories were taking the long walks to the town dump with Grandma and scrounging around for goodies and going to the church once a week after they dumped off all those clothes for us all to look through. But when my Grandfather died, my Grandmother couldn't take care of me anymore and sent me to live with my Mother, Anne George. She only had me for a short while, before I got sent to the residential school in Cranbrook, where I went to school for 2 years. After that, I got caught up in the 60's Scoop, and was put into a foster home, here in town.

Many decisions were made for me and about me during my life, without any input from me at all. No one wanted to know what I needed or wanted, they just assumed that they knew what was best for me, they weren't always right. I know that I wasn't the only native child that this has happened to. Now, as an adult, input has become very important to me, whether it has to do with myself or anyone I talk to. I feel that we all need to do more careful listening and to share more about our wants and needs

I got married shortly after I left that foster home and had 8 children, who are all doing pretty well for themselves, each in their own way. They have provided me with many Grandchildren and a few Great Grandchildren, and I am very proud to be known as their Grandmother.

It wasn't until a few years ago, after my Grandmother, my Aunt's Jeanette and Agatha, and my Uncle Moses had all passed away, that I started to feel like I was getting left behind, very much alone. My daughter, Lisa, decided then, that she would see if she could find out if I had more relatives elsewhere. This led to her 4 year quest to track down our genealogy and then the genealogy for the whole of LKB. It was through helping her with this endeavor, that created the interest in me to look deep what our people's history was all about. This made me realize, that what I had been conditioned to believe about our people was very wrong.

I did gain a totally different perspective, then, but it wasn't until I actually set foot onto my Great Grandpa Nick's Garden, that I truly felt like I did belong here. Like, I had finally found my home. Quite often, I wished that I could spend more time there, as I found it very calming and stabilizing, but I had my job of 15 years at Kootenay Huscroft Forest Products, which left me pretty tired after work. But, recent events have happened, so I no longer work there.

Yes, I did suffer trauma in the different places I was put, as many others have. For many years, I tried to kill the pain of loss, anger and disconnection that I always felt, in all the wrong ways. But with therapy, the complete support, and unwavering belief that my family and close friends had for me, I was able to emerge from that continuous battle with a very positive outlook on life and more strength than I've ever had.

I believe that all the experiences that I've had, have helped me to achieve a unique perspective and a better understanding of how trauma can affect people and how we can cling to destructive patterns. I carry with me, the hope that we are all strong enough to look forward for our Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, to do what needs to be done to give them a good chance at a future that we never had. But any group, is only as strong as it's weakest member.

So with all this in mind, I would like to start with changes to our core, such as having our own input, as to how and where our money is being spent and then deciding as a whole, by motions, where it will go. I have issues with our housing situation, and want to see more initiatives being put into renovations. We need open monthly council meetings, where we can be informed on what band council has been doing, where any band member can ask questions and get answers. Also, I would like to see us offering trades people the going wage to allow interested band members a chance to job shadow or gain apprenticeship programs.

I know you believe that change does need to happen on our reserve, Robert Louie Sr., Wayne Louie and I, are all strongly dedicated towards creating a more effective and inclusive future for our people. The opportunity for change is now, vote for us in this election.

For further clarification or any questions, please free to give me a call during evening hours, at (250) 977-5582, or email me at [welcome2mynightmare11@hotmail.com](mailto:welcome2mynightmare11@hotmail.com), or you even check me out on FB under Ellie George and DM me there.

Here's to better days, Eleanor George