

Diane McElhinney

Candidate for Tsawwassen First Nation Legislature

Rooted in Our History • Committed to Our Future • A Voice for All Members



My Roots

I do not live on TFN Lands, but my roots and my heart have always lived here. My mother, Valeria Williams, was born on our lands. My grandparents, Pearl and Isaac Williams, and my Uncle Russell lived here and helped shape who I am. Growing up, I learned to ride my bike along the gravel road back before the ferry terminal was built. I have watched our Nation evolve across generations. When I walk where my mother walked, hear the herons, look out over the water, and visit her resting place under the tree in our cemetery, I know exactly who I am and where I belong.

I am immensely proud of our Nation's journey. The fortitude and vision of our leaders and community have brought us so far. My heart fills with gratitude when I see that a Youth Center was our priority, that a Respected Elders Center came next, and that we now have a Health Center. To witness our young people embracing our culture, caring for our lands, and achieving the remarkable feat of bringing our language back to life is an incredible gift. Every time I visit, our youth and community meet me with kindness, guidance, and open arms.



Experience & Tools for Governance

Master's Degree in Program Management

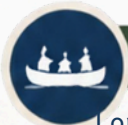
Skilled in leading and coordinating complex initiatives from planning to successful outcomes.

Executive Leadership & Organizational Consulting

Experienced in strategic planning, accountability, and strengthening systems for effective governance.

Bachelor's Degree in Psychology

Grounded in human relations, understanding people, building consensus, clear communication, and constructive problem-solving.



A Nation Beyond Borders

Long before an international border divided our territories, our ancestors knew that kinship and community are not confined to a single geographic line. We are Tsawwassen First Nation—whether we live on TFN Lands, across British Columbia, in the United States, or wherever life's journey takes us. Every member matters to the strength of the whole canoe.



What I Will Work For

Our government has grown rapidly post-treaty. With rapid growth comes the responsibility to refine our systems, support our staff, and ensure our services work smoothly and equitably:

- Ensure thoughtful oversight and accountability as we manage our shared resources, capital projects, and future investments.
- Build a true bridge for cross-border and off-lands members, improving communication, event lead times, and access to member services so no family is left behind.
- Protect and uplift our youth and cultural learners, supporting programs that celebrate effort, language revitalization, and safe spaces to learn our traditions.
- Bring an Elder's steady perspective, focused on collaboration, mutual respect, and constructive progress rather than division.

There is always room to improve, and being actively involved with a positive, solutions-focused spirit is the best way to move forward. I would be deeply honored to serve you and represent our shared future in the TFN Legislature.

A Voice for All Members

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Contact Diane

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