

Joanne Stone-Campbell, Bio

Hello, my name is ly'imelwit, which means blanket of strength. It was given to me in a Squamish Naming Ceremony. I also carry an Anishnabe Spirit name which is "Sound of Thunderbird Speaking". My parents are Agnes Stone (past elected chief) and the late Francis Stone (also past elected chief) who were both my inspiration from Michipicoten First Nation in Ontario.

I'm a registered member of the Squamish Nation, and live in West Vancouver with my beautiful daughter who is 10yrs old and goes to Collingwood Preparatory school in West Vancouver. She is my miracle baby, for many years I tried conceiving a child to no avail. I then went to In vitro fertilization as a last resort. My 4th try at this procedure was when the miracle happened; I did conceive naturally after all this with all the prayers, and ceremonies and the greatest blessing from his holiness the Dalai Lama.

Some highlights of my career are being appointed as Justice of the Peace for the Province of Ontario as one of the youngest First Nations persons appointed combined with the Marriage commissioner appointment at age 22, receiving the title "Women of Distinction, in Education, Training and Development" by YWCA 2008, carrying the 2010 Olympic Torch and being in Education for over 30 years.

I always believed in education as stepping stones to follow your dreams, at 10 years old I operated my own Red School House on reserve. My dad encouraged me to be a teacher and run my own homework club for my cuzzies. I was the only one to graduate from grade 12 my community at the time, and then to go on to post-secondary education. After graduating it lead to so many opportunities. This gave me the confidence to not be afraid to try new things, and to believe others of your potential when you don't believe in yourself. Recently I have graduated from UBC/Sauder School of Business in Advanced Management Training and now enrolled in BCIT-Starting your own Business.

As the present Coordinator of Aboriginal Services for BCIT, we provide a safe, supportive, and culturally relevant environment for students of Aboriginal ancestry to fulfill their dreams of a higher education. It's about building bridges for our future generations so that they may be free to be themselves. Through this we have broken down barriers by showing our rich, ancient and authentic history in which all people can feel a sense of pride and changed the way people think about Aboriginal people.

Another way I do this is by volunteering 30 hours per month as a personal coach/Facilitator for Choices International which is a personal growth seminar which I have been involved in for 13years. I am a strong believer in giving back and assisting people find their purpose in life. My purpose in ***life is that I'm a passionate woman who opens doors by encouraging others to fulfill their dreams.***

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Coordinator for Aboriginal Services, BCIT