

# RAMONA BENNETT

I love our tribe and would be proud to represent you. I have a history of hard work and achievement, both in my personal life and with the tribe. I believe I have knowledge and insight that would be beneficial to our council, of course I hope you share my belief and vote for me.

I strongly believe that no 18 year old, 21 year old, or 25 year old needs a huge lump sum of money handed to them with no effort or accomplishment required on their part. I would like to see the practice of banking minors dollars end.

Those funds already set aside would continue to be saved for that young Puyallup, but not released until they have at least; finished high school, or a G.E.D. and Voc School, or at least two years of real on-the-clock employment AND A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE. A clean UA wouldn't hurt. The dollars we've been setting aside could be better utilized by building ourselves up as a tribe for their future and ours.

We have a very young tribe, with about half the members being 18 and under. That's a lot of money. I recommend a slight increase in the per capitas that are distributed to both our adults and children. I recommend a substantial increase in the sums provided for vocational and college students living allowances I would like to see \$10,000 or more provided our high school graduates as a reward for their accomplishments and a similar incentive for voc and college completion.

I would like our tribe to invest in land and businesses so that our young people can look forward to a future of earned income. None of us can be certain about the future economy or the future of casinos. We need to rely on ourselves. To do that we must be as well educated and trained as possible so we can take care of ourselves and our own businesses.

On the personal side, I'm still married to Clyde Bill of the Jamestown Sklallum Tribe. I have a Doctorate in Public Affairs, I am still involved in child welfare. We have a sweat lodge and a strong circle of friends and relatives who sweat every Wednesday evening. Our current household has three teen boys; Danny and Tony are seniors, and Jake is a Junior. Tiauna and Kahee-Losh and the big boys all go to Chief Leschi. Baby Lucky goes to Grandview learning center. Clyde and I do a lot of cooking and cleaning and go to the casino if ever we get a chance.

One day I commented I'm older than dirt. Our kid Byron said, "no mom, you're still moving...you're old like water." I like that...so I better keep moving.

I and my family are thankful for the many benefits and kindnesses provided to us through our membership with our tribe. Just the health care alone is a blessing and the dollars toward basic life support and assistance with; activities, day care, family emergencies, and school are most appreciated. We had Christmas, a flood, and a wedding all within six weeks and the tribe provided dollars and space for everything. How awesome is that!

I am grateful for this day and grateful for my life...all my relations.

