



William A. White, BA History and Anthropology (90 Uvic) is a Snuneymuxw First Nation member and carries two ancestral names, Xelimulh and Kasalid. His Ancestors came from Sullumalcha, Whewhula, Anwainus, and Saauliquun village sites. It is they who met Nucumuxw/newcomers around 1849. He is a descendant of Tsuknustan, through the Wyse family and the grandson of George and Isobel (nee Wyse) White.

While with the SD, Nanaimo, Co-Ordinator of Indian Education, 1974-80 and later with Uvic as its' Aboriginal Liaison Officer, 1974-80 he worked with traditionally trained elders/Sulsalewh. While with Snuneymuxw Council, six years, he held the portfolio for matters related to Education and Culture. In the seventies, we were faced with a 95% drop out rate from kindergarten to grade 12, a suicide rate 6x the national average, an unemployment rate of at least 60%. The author Dan George, *My Heart Soars*, 1974, referred to this period "As Our Sad Winter" and represented systematic oppression by both church and state. Since the seventies he has been a student of the following traditionally trained elders/Sulsalewh, (Kay George/Cowichan), (Chief Adam Dick/Kingcome Inlet-Qualicum), (Dr. Samuel Sam, OC/Tsartlip), (Agnes Pierre/Katzie). In order to emerge from that darkness we had to work closely with the elders of our community.

Mr. White has been asked to sit on many committees as an elder/Sulalewh and is currently a member of Chief Michael Wyses' Elders Advisory Committee, a teacher/Titimels for the Nanaimo Museum, and an advisor to St. Micheals' University School, Victoria, BC. He is also an advisor the a Reconciliation Project for Simon Fraser University in collaboration with Gabriola Island communities and Snuneymuxw First Nation. He has also been an advisor to the Canadian Based Research Centre, Vancouver BC, Traditional Teachings for STI & HIV 2019 World Congress, 2019.

He is interested in the application of Coast Salish values called Snawayalth including ritual and ceremonies, talk, to maintain balance and healing. In the last 20 years he has had at least five students who wanted to know more about maintaining balance.