

Respected Tsawout Elder Ignatius Pelkey has a remarkable story of overcoming and choosing victory in every circumstance he has ever faced. He has a decorated story of multiple sports and career developments and applied all he has experienced, to make life work, for him and his family.

Having been declared cancer free, after a long battle for his health, he accepted the challenge to take on the world in the Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Races as a public display of hope and healing this August, 2024.

Ignatius is making use of this opportunity to give voice to the ones who cannot speak for themselves – the ones that never made it home and the ones still hurting in silence and the ones that lost their lives as a result of Residential School.

His courage is a stark contrast to the lasting impacts of Residential School, and he is openly bringing restoration by using this race as an apology to his family, for the effects of Residential School he might have carried over to them, unknowingly, while rebuilding his spirit.

Ignatius would like to share his story to bring awareness of the effect Residential School has had on families and communities and how it still forms part of the fabric of our day-to-day life and experiences. It impacted his family in a grave way. He would like to create understanding, by sharing his experience, for friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances that are still hiding those scars. You might be encountering or working with these people on a daily basis and know not what they carry.

To make this journey possible we are requesting donations and sponsors to raise funds for the costs of travel, equipment, and accommodation for Ignatius, his family and the members and crews, participating as part of his Canoe Club. The races take place this year August/September 2024. Every donation counts and will make a significant difference in his and the youth he is mentoring's ability to compete and succeed in the canoe races.

“This is one thing that was never taken away from our Elders and our people. It is our only traditional sport that we were able to hang onto”. Ignatius was given back the teachings by the Elders, upon his return to community, as a young man, because they recognised him by whom his father was.

You can sponsor Elder Ignatius Pelkey's and the crew's races, equipment or kit by donating by contacting us directly at [lifecoach@tsawout.ca](mailto:lifecoach@tsawout.ca) We need funds for flights, accommodation, canoe rentals, kit and food, to make travel possible.

We will gladly share his full story, interviews, results and ongoing progress with you as per your request, as some of the information and experiences can retraumatize readers.

Thank you dearly and warm regards

Ignatius, Family and Betsie