



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Á'a:líya (Theresa) Warbus



Summary

Á'a:líya Theresa Warbus has demonstrated a remarkable ability to balance a professional career while serving as a member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia (MLA) and managing a film production studio, a personal life as mother of three children, as a coach / manager for adult / youth First Nations members competing with Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) and at North American Indigenous Games, as an athlete who has competed with Team Canada at IVF World Sprints and organized Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) crews for CORA / PNWORCA events, and as a mentor for the Team Coast Salish group of Indigenous War Canoe paddlers at the 2024 Hilo IVF World Sprints Championships representing Coast Salish First Nations paddlers from Canada and the United States.

Early Career

Á'a:líya Theresa Warbus, born Theresa Alexis Point 1984 or 1985, is a Canadian politician who has served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia (MLA) representing the electoral district of Chilliwack-Cultus Lake since 2024. She is the daughter of former lieutenant governor of British Columbia Steven Point and his wife Gwendolyn Point. Warbus is Stó:lō, from the Skowkale First Nation, the first Stó:lō person to be elected in British Columbia. Prior to being elected, Warbus was an artist, filmmaker, and singer. She served as professor at Capilano University's Indigenous digital film department and as the Indigenous artist-in-residence for Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Ahead of her election, she was working as the Director of Cultural Communications at the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Government. Alongside her husband, Calvin Warbus, she runs the film production studio Salish Legends Media. Warbus is a mother of three, and is married to Lummi Nation member Calvin Warbus. Warbus currently lives in the Skowkale First Nation. She and her husband are active canoe racers with the Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC). [101] [102] [103]

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) social media has minimal mention of their achievements in terms of participation in Western Canada or international outrigger canoeing events. However, the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA) website race results indicate that Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) with Á'a:líya have fielded crews and done well in CORA sanctioned events and in the CORA Cup Series events over the course of many years. Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) with Á'a:líya have sent crews to the Latitude 48 Bridges OC6 event for many years, and this may very well be due to the host club providing OC6s for participating crews. Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) with Á'a:líya have demonstrated support for cross-border PNWORCA OC6 long-distance events by truck-topping their OC6s to attend The Gorge, Da Grind, Pacific NorthWest Outrigger Challenge (PNWOC), and the Bellingham Classic. It is known that Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) has sent individuals including Á'a:líya to IVF World Sprints / Distance events in recent years. [111] [112]

Coach-Builder Achievements

Á'a:líya would facilitate Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) / Skowkale Nation acquiring one new Clipper Advantage OC6 in late 2022, and one new ARE Matahina Unlimited OC6 in 2024. Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) members had trained in Single / Double / Six Man / Eleven Man war (Indigenous) dugout canoes and solo / tandem outrigger

canoes prior to the acquisition of the six-person outrigger canoes. Á'a:líya coached several Star Nation paddlers who competed / medaled at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) including Ellashani Riella George and Autumn Jen Malloway. [121] [122]

Pioneering Achievements

Á'a:líya founded Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) in 2018 to provide a safe space for women to train and participate in war canoe racing and outrigger canoe racing. The process of Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) operating out of Cultus Lake began in 2018 with an application put forward to the Cultus Lake Park Board by Theresa Warbus-Point along with Gwen and Steven Point, for a fenced storage area close to the Cultus Lake Main Beach to store their race canoes. And so, it came to be. Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) is an example of a Coast Salish First Nations canoe club that may or may not be affiliated with a specific First Nation. Á'a:líya (Theresa) Warbus as founder of Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC), is a member of the Stó:lō nation, from the Skowkale First Nation, but this does not necessarily mean that all Star Nation Canoe Club (SNCC) members are with the Skowkale First Nation. [131] [132] [133]

Exemplary Achievements

Warbus was one of four Indigenous women elected to the BC Legislature in the 2024 election, tied with the 2017 election for the most Indigenous candidates elected. [157] Prior to being elected, Warbus was an artist, filmmaker, and singer. Warbus moved to the city of Vancouver from Alberta and undertook a program related to youth and theatre. [158] In 2007, Warbus was among the students included in the first Aboriginal Youth Internship Program sponsored by the government of British Columbia, where Warbus worked in the Ministry of Children and Family Development [159] and furthering her work in Vancouver's Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (KAYA). [160] In 2011, Warbus was the emcee for the Peace Walk through Chilliwack during National Addictions Awareness Week. [161] Warbus served as professor at Capilano University's Indigenous digital film department and as the Indigenous artist-in-residence for Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Ahead of her election, Warbus was working as the Director of Cultural Communications at the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Government. Alongside her husband, Calvin Warbus, she runs the film production studio Salish Legends Media. Warbus has worked as a professor at Capilano University in its Indigenous digital film department, [162] [163] [164] and served as the Indigenous artist-in-residence for Kwantlen Polytechnic University. [165] [166] [167] In 2016, Warbus led the Native youth mentorship program held at the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology. [168] While at the University of British Columbia, Warbus served as a student ambassador, [152] completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in film production in 2018. [168]

References

#	Note	Link
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[103]	MLA Á'a:líya Warbus Chilliwack-Cultus Lake	https://aaliyawarbus.com/
[111]	2024 Hilo IVF World Sprints Team Coast Salish	https://www.instagram.com/teamcoastsalish/?hl=en
[112]	2024 Hilo IVF World Sprints Team Coast Salish	https://www.facebook.com/p/Team-Coast-Salish-2024-IVF-Vaa-World-Elite-and-Club-Sprint-Championship-61563665296113/
[121]	North America Indigenous Games 2023	https://naig2023.gems.pro/Result/ShowPerson.aspx?Person_GUID=8092AD7F-3B92-431E-BE76-0389A4B71BED&SetLanguage=en-CA&Gems_ScreenWidth=1536&Gems_ScreenHeight=960&Gems_ScreenAvailWidth=1536&Gems_ScreenAvailHeight=912
[122]	North America Indigenous Games 2023	https://naig2023.gems.pro/Result/ShowPerson.aspx?Person_GUID=8bc09be7-83b1-44ca-a3cb-5fb08d83ceeb&SetLanguage=en-CA
[131]	2018 Star Nation Canoe Club	https://www.facebook.com/p/Star-Nation-Canoe-Club-61558461734370/
[132]	2025 Star Nation Canoe Club	https://vancouver.sun.com/opinion/columnists/aaliya-warbus-right-hand-woman-for-b-c-conservative-leader-john-rustad
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