

2025 Elder of the Year

Helen C. Bell

Helen C. Bell, born and raised in Nome, Alaska, has faithfully served with Sitnasuak Native Corporation since 1987, which marks 38 years of dedication to serving the shareholders and protecting the land.

Throughout the years, she has held various positions, committees and its subsidiaries among these being secretary of the corporation and SNC Trust, and executive committee; chair of Elders Committee, SNC Technical Services, director of Sitnasuak Properties, Technical Services, Bonanza Fuel, Sitnasuak Health Solutions, and Nanuaq; and member of the Bylaws and Personnel Committee and Land Committee.

Her loyalty to SNC has been genuine and steadfast. As chairperson of the Elders Committee, Helen has been vocal in involving youth, often saying, "They have much to learn from participating in Elder Committee meetings". She involved students by tasking them with purposeful activities relating to elder projects.

Helen has invited shareholders to attend during "Story Sessions", community individuals and leaders from the City of Nome and Nome Public Schools to discuss shared issues, and other entities such as Fish and Game and National Park Service to collaborate on projects and solutions to current events and issues.

Her leadership has been evident by the endeavors she deems so strongly those being The Two Eskimo Boys, the Sitnasuaq Cultural Guide, and the yearly SNC calendar. Through these projects, she

has ensured our corporation preserves and showcases the rich cultural and heritage of Sitnasuak. Board Members have fond memories of gathering at her Nuuk camp at Safety Sound to conduct their Elders Committee meetings.

Helen has a wealth of historical knowledge, which she adds to many SNC meetings. At meetings, she supports positive, joyous interactions among members often woven with respect and integrity.

She is the proud mother of Lisa Nason, Christine Oles, and Simon Bell.