



VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

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On Behalf of Vuntut Gwitchin Government Chief and Council and all Staff:

It is with heavy hearts that the Vuntut Gwitchin Government mournfully acknowledges the passing of our beloved Leader Joe Linklater. Joe was a bright light and a source of positivity for the Vuntut Gwitchin, and for many, many more across the entire world. He served as chief for 12 consecutive years, and 15 years total. He was indeed one of our greatest leaders in our rich history, but more than that, he was a dear friend, mentor, beloved relative, and a kind hearted soul to all who were blessed by his presence. His big bright smile and warm heart soothed the spirit of many. It is in fact, the most amazing thing about him, that even though he was such a prolific leader and naturally talented person, he was also kind and generous and brought happiness to the people around him. He will be sorely missed but we must all remember his resolve; he never gave up and he was unafraid to face grief and other obstacles with strength and courage. We should all honor him by doing the same.



Joe Linklater, VGG General Assembly 2017

Quotes:

“Chief Joe Linklater’s heart and soul were in the community of Old Crow. His hard work and commitment to the future of Vuntut Gwitchin are his legacy. – Bruce Charlie, Chief

“I had the chance to serve with Joe in his role as Chief. He spoke strongly for our community and with guidance from our elders he set self-government in place for our future. When advocating on behalf of our Government, he always carried great respect for Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Communication to the community was one of his main goals, ensuring that everyone was on the same page. His office door was always open and he genuinely listened to all for advice and guidance. Mahsi Cho Joe for all the hard work you have given to the Vuntut Gwitchin. I am thankful to be your friend and my family. – Esau Schafer, Deputy Chief

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“Joe was an inspiration and a mentor. I worked alongside him in leadership for three years. Joe was a powerful speaker who inspired our nation. He always promoted a vision of investing in our youth to invest in our community’s future. He mentored and invested in me and that will be a memory that I will cherish for the rest of my life. – Paul Josie, Council

“He inspired me, he inspired the youth, and his legacy will keep on inspiring people for many years to come. – Marvin Frost Jr., Council

We thank you Joe, for dedicating your life to our community and to our First Nation. We will continue to honour you and your legacy and the vision that you had for our people.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Joe’s family at this time.

Mahsi Cho.

For media inquiries please contact:

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