

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

Statement

August 18, 2020

UBCIC Remembers Renowned *Nisga'a* Leader and Trailblazer Joseph Gosnell

((X^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔ/səlilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh)/Vancouver, B.C. – August 18, 2020) The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Joseph Gosnell after his long-fought battle with cancer. An admired politician, treaty negotiator and incomparable leader of the *Nisga'a* Nation, UBCIC mourns the loss of not only an incredible pioneer of Indigenous Title and Rights, but a loving father who leaves behind seven children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife of 64 years, Audrey Adele, his family, friends, and community members.

A hereditary *Nisga'a* chieftain of the Laxsgiik (Eagle) Clan, Joseph blazed the way for *Nisga'a* self-determination and sovereignty. Serving as the *Nisga'a* chief negotiator, he helped negotiate and implement the landmark *Nisga'a* Treaty – the first modern treaty in Canada that was signed by the federal and provincial governments in 1988. Joseph was an architect of the reclamation of Indigenous dignity and authority; he pioneered a pathway to reconciliation and sovereignty that will be an everlasting and inspiring legacy for generations to come. Garnering numerous honours over the course of his career, including the Order of British Columbia, Dr. Joseph Gosnell will be remembered as a titan and champion of Indigenous rights – a man who was a pillar of strength and wisdom for his Nation and Indigenous peoples around the world.

-30-

Media inquiries:

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of UBCIC: (250-490-5314)

Chief Don Tom, Vice-President of UBCIC: (604-290-6083)

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer of UBCIC: (250-320-7738)

UBCIC is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

For more information please visit www.ubcic.bc.ca