

AUGUST 10, 2021

For Immediate Release: CONDOLENCES, GRIEF ON THE PASSING OF KRISTINE MCLEOD

[YELLOWKNIFE, CANADA] Gwich'in Council International (GCI) offers our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod. It was with profound sadness that we received news of her passing, and we extend our sympathy and prayers to all who are hurting and grieving her loss. She will be deeply missed.

The Gwich'in Nation has lost a light, leader, mother, wife, relative, friend, and colleague. Deputy Grand Chief McLeod embodied the values of YIINJINIHLĒTR'ICHIL'EH (Respect), CHIGWIJU'EE TR'IGWINDAII (Honesty), YIINJITR'ICHIL'EH (Honor), TR'EEDLAA (Laughter), ZHUH GHAT T'IGWIDICH'UU (Kindness), and NIHK'ATR'INAATII (Sharing & Caring). She was proud to be Gwich'in, she supported and enabled those around her, and she inspired people to think differently about leadership, politics, and everyone's role in creating a better future.

We witnessed the impact of Deputy Grand Chief McLeod through her words and actions. She actively listened and engaged, questioned and laughed, reported out and shared, and was dedicated to advancing the interests of the Gwich'in Nation. She supported our work, particularly related to empowering youth and building opportunities for their involvement and leadership. Her participation at GCI events in Inuvik, NT and virtually raised awareness and pride, and contributed to strong and meaningful engagement and outcomes.

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of GTC Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod.

"Our Nation has lost a beautiful leader. We will never forget the kindness and love she had for us all. May her strength, passion, integrity and vision continue within each of us," says Gwich'in Council International Board member Sharla Greenland.

We will keep her family, colleagues, and friends in our hearts and prayers, and continue to be inspired by her achievements and spirit. We encourage anyone who is struggling to reach out for supports available, or contact us to be connected to those supports.

Adik'ánaantii – take care of yourselves.

If you would like more information, please contact:

Erin Linklater, Co-Chair, Canada: eringlinklater@gmail.com

Edward Alexander, Co-Chair, Alaska: 1edward.alexander@gmail.com

Devlin Fernandes, Executive Director: gci.executivedirector@gmail.com

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