



TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

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For immediate release

Re: Tseshaht First Nation Mourns the Passing of Canada’s First Indigenous Judge & former chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Honourable Murray Sinclair

Earlier today, Tseshaht First Nation was informed of the passing of the Honourable Murray Sinclair, former chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and champion of Indigenous Rights and Freedoms. On behalf of our ḥawiiḥ, Elected Chief and Council, Elders and all 1,300+ Tseshaht members we send our thoughts, prayers, condolences and loving energy to his wife, Katherine Morrisseau-Sinclair, five children – Misko, Niigaan, Dene, Gazheek and Jessica, and three grandchildren as well as extended family, friends, colleagues and the Peguis First Nation.

Murray played a pivotal role in the advancement of truth and reconciliation, decolonization and indigenous identity across Canada, transforming the Canadian political landscape with unwavering commitment to Indigenous Peoples. Chief Councillor Wahmeesh (Ken Watts) stated, “the world is a better place thanks to Murray Sinclair. Survivors of the Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS), those who passed away as students and those impacted by the intergenerational trauma of residential schools now have a voice and solid concrete actions that can be taken through the TRC’s 94 Calls to Action. He worked with other TRC Commissioners to call upon governments, industry, and Canadians to take action on this dark chapter in Canadian history. Personally, I had the privilege of meeting Murray several times privately and can comfortably say that he was one of the most brilliant Indigenous leaders of our time leading with kindness, compassion, care, speaking eloquently and wanting to ensure there is truth and justice. ʔuušʔakšičeʔicuu to his family for sharing such an amazing human being.”

A statement issued by Murray’s family tells “Mazina Giizhik (the one who speaks of pictures in the sky) committed his life in service to the people: creating change, revealing truth and leading with fairness throughout his career. The impact of our dad’s work reached far across the country and the world. From residential school Survivors to law students to those who sat across from him in a courtroom, he was always known as an exceptional listener and who treated everyone with dignity and respect.” The statement went on to say, “We know that stories of his kindness, generosity and fairness will circulate for generations to come”.