

In Loving Memory
Of
Harry Pierre



December 18, 1941-February 20, 2007

OUR MEMORIES

Chief Maureen Luggi ~ Wet'suwet'en First Nation **Tribute to the Late Harry Pierre**

On behalf of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation Elders, Community Members, Staff, Chief and Council, I extend my condolences to

- Jenny Pierre in the loss of her husband and lifelong partner & to her Children and Grandchildren in the loss of their Father & Grandfather.
- The Pierre family of Tlazten Nation in the loss of their Brother & Uncle.
- To Grand Chief Edward John of Tlazten Nation and the John family
- To all of the Relatives, Family & Friends of Harry Pierre of Tlazten Nation, Nakazdli, Takla & Carrier Sekani area.

As a former Chief and Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, the Late Harry Pierre was passionate about his work & fought hard on behalf of our people and future generations. His goal of ensuring that Aboriginal people be treated justly and fairly has been exercised throughout all of his years of service to his people. Harry had a heart for the people in the Tribal Council communities, especially when they were going through a period of mourning and loss. As the Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, he took the time to visit with families who were grieving and always demonstrated his understanding and respect towards them. We are thankful for the kindness he has shown towards the people of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. He took time to speak with all of our Elders when they were present at Tribal Council meetings. You would always hear him sharing his insight about issues on Residential Schools, Traditional Hunting & Fishing rights and so many other issues that are of concern to our people. He enjoyed speaking his language and speaking about the traditions of his people and was very proud of that. We are thankful for the leadership and stability he has brought to our Tribal Council in the past few years. He was a strong leader and he spoke very optimistically about the future. He would want all of us to carry on and have hope for the future. We encourage the family to allow the wonderful memories of Harry bring comfort to you.

We will always remember you Harry! God bless & comfort all of his loved ones who are mourning his loss.
You will be in our prayers.

*Yah though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil
Your rod and your staff they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil, my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
~Psalm 23:4-6*

Chief Maureen Luggi
Wet'suwet'en First Nation

On behalf of Nak'azdli members and community we are deeply saddened by the loss of elder Harry Pierre. He was a methodical inspirational leader for his people of Tlazten Nation and the rest of the First Nations of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. We thank him dearly for his wise assistance during our time of need in our community during the loss of our young and elderly. We sincerely offer our condolences to his wife Jenny, their kids and grand kids. Thank you Harry Pierre for fighting for the First Nation cause so we could leave a better place for our children.

**Chief Leonard Thomas
Nak'azdli Band**

Yes, it is with great sadness that we reflect and remember Harry Pierre in our prayers. May the Lord be with the family and give them strength and courage as they go through times of sorrow. Harry was such an advocate of the North and stood strong on Culture. We will all remember Harry in the work that we do. It is people like Harry and others who have gone before us that have blazed the trail within Indian Country with the Vision of making things better for our children, grandchildren and those to follow. As we continue to carry that torch of Self Determination, on behalf of the Lake Babine Nation and its membership, Harry, may you rest peacefully. Your work on earth is done, as you change residency from this temporary place on earth that we call home into the Golden Gates of Heaven.

**Chief Betty Patrick
Lake Babine Nation**

This is written in remembrance of Mr. Harry Pierre, who served as Tribal Chief 2003-2006 of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. I had the privilege and honor to work alongside Mr. Pierre, who had a lasting effect on the people he came into contact with.

I will remember the first time I met Harry was when I was working at PGNAETA, and we were hosting a city-wide Forum discussing an action plan to address Aboriginal Homelessness in the City of Prince George. He shared about how his brothers and sisters also need a voice at this table, and that they all have a community to call home, a family, and they are in fact People, and not a number. It hit home when he introduced two guests who were in fact homeless to share their stories to the various representatives at the Forum. In reflection, he saw how important it was to be inclusive, and let us not forget to ask those that would be most affected to be a part of the solution. Harry shared with me that he cannot say no to his People, when they needed money while they were living on the streets, he would ensure to buy them a coffee or a sandwich, and at times loan them money knowing they may never re-pay him back. He knew that everybody had a story on how they have been challenged and became homeless, and more importantly, he took the time to listen to their stories. From time to time we would have some People whom were homeless that would like to meet the Tribal Chief to just sit down with him and have a coffee, and Harry would drop what he was doing and have a coffee with them.

Harry has had an effect on me, and inspired myself and others to stand up for social justice for our People. He leaves with me that it is our voice and our capability to speak for those that do not have a voice at the table, and why we were entrusted to work at the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. Mr. Pierre will be remembered as a true Elder Statesman

of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council who called upon his People to look at ensuring we have a stronger voice, and there was more work to be done.

My deepest sympathy and condolences to the Pierre Family.

Respectfully,

Jason Morgan
General Manager
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

In working with Harry over the years, my respect and admiration for him has grown tremendously. There wasn't a day that went by that I didn't learn something from him. Whether it was a Dakelh word, a story, a teaching or just a simple joke, Harry was a great teacher, leader and mentor. Harry's honesty and straightforward manner was like a breath of fresh air for a political leader. He was always respectful when talking to government or industry, but he always made sure they knew that they could not walk all over us. He would get right to the point, and speak for the people that could not be at the table – the community members he represented. When we started looking at the Enbridge pipeline, and what it might do to the land, Harry was very clear that he wanted to put the land first. When we brought all the affected First Nations together in Prince George, he said to the gathering:

"We got our own system, but we are trying to make it fit into the white man system. It doesn't work, it's the wrong kind of mentality. Our people survived a long time ago, if one person had a garden, they have to share with others. But we are always westernizing to praising money. Government plays the money game off one another. It's the Keyoh that makes the decision. As tribal chief I don't want to run this thing, but we can help manage it (the First Nations Review Process). Always think of the environment first, don't sell out, don't sell out."

As time went on, and the company became more aggressive in dealing with us and pushing their pipeline ahead, Harry continued to speak out in the media and in the communities on the impacts to the fish and the water. He would always question me and whether I thought they should just try to get some economic benefits out of it. I knew that it wasn't up to me, its not going through my nation's territory, but I was honest with him because he trusted me to work on this project. We did discuss this decision a few times, and he always ended up saying, "we can't sell out." I remember thinking then, there are some people that love money more than they love the land, but Harry is not one of them.

Even after he finished his term as Tribal Chief, he would call the office and ask for updates on the pipelines. In one of the last conversations I had with him, he asked me "what if the company offered you a million dollars to say yes, would you take it?" I laughed and said, "I don't have the power to take it, to say yes or no to the pipeline." But he still pressed me, "would you take it"? I said no.

Out of all the good memories I have of working with Harry, his integrity and love for the land is what stands out the most. He has instilled this in me, and I am sure in his children, grandchildren and the many people who were fortunate enough to work with him over the years. May this spirit live on in all of us.

Tara Marsden, M.A.
Special Projects Director - Pipelines
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

I will always remember the times when Harry would drop by my office and tell a story about something. It was the old way of doing things. The stories were always different. One was about finding moose stuck in the mud another was about some men fighting. It taught me to remember to listen; to listen to the wind; to listen to the elders, and to listen to your heart. I learned a lot about how the way things used to be. About the Dakelh names for the seasons and how the names related to activities people were doing or what the weather was doing; The 'time of the big snowflake' and the 'time of the patchy snow'. Although I haven't known Harry for very long, I know that I will spend a lot of time getting to know him from the time we had as human beings.

Jaime Sanchez
Land Use Planning Coordinator
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

That is awesome to make this book. Some people's lives should be documented as others can relate to the impact he had on their lives. Harry was a wonderful leader with strong words and a calm voice. He was respected by many Elders and loved by lots of community members from all over the province.

Whenever people would hear his name, they would be ready to share his recent story told to them. Harry had a wonderful ability to share his memories with an interesting lesson attached. No wonder his grandchildren loved him so. He will be dearly missed and thought of with much respect. I am so happy that he is in a better place than us, he is deserving of the utmost respect.

Joanna Prince (Relative to Harry)
Administrative Assistant
First Nations Forestry Council

It was of great shock to hear of Harry Pierre' passing. My condolences go out to the Pierre family and their great loss. I didn't get to know Harry until he joined the Ecosystem Stewardship Planning Advisory Group with First Nations Forestry Council. Harry was a man of great wisdom and knowledge. His love for the land and culture could be heard through every word he spoke. It was a privilege to know him and I have a better understanding of how important the future is for my daughter and the next generation. To have someone like Harry stick up for the native people and their rights was a great honour. The legacy that Harry left will be hard to follow. He is in a better place and will be greatly missed by all. We know that he is with Winnie and many other family members keeping them company now.

Dawn Morris (relative of Harry Pierre)
First Nations Energy Summit

My memories of Harry started when I got to know him while working at the Tribal Council. Every morning, he would wave and ask where the paper was, and when he did grab the paper he would start off "You Know..." and then tell me a story of the past about hunting, fishing or anything from his family. I know he had a caring heart, as he would tell me that he bought extra breakfast meals or coffee, and give it to any street people he saw downtown, before he came to work each day. He was a true leader in Carrier Sekani Culture, as he always taught us everyday how it used to be and how it should be

today. I still cannot believe that he has left us, as even since the 2006 AGA in July, he still called in and said "Good Morning From Tache, BC, how is the weather there." Then he would tell me what was new and then ask for whoever he was calling for. He treated everyone as people, and not another face in the crowd, and I respected him for that. My condolences, and prayers go to the Pierre family-Jenny, Children, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Awetza.

Victoria Austin

Receptionist

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

I'll miss Harry's stories, and jokes, whenever I felt down or sad I'd go and talk to Harry and he would tell me a story or joke and make me laugh to feel better. I'll always remember the blonde joke he told me, What do you call a smart blonde? A golden retriever, it still makes me laugh when I think of it. Harry was a happy, good man, always putting smiles on people's faces, he will be greatly missed.

Amanda Collins

Finance Assistant

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

I have a memory of Harry, when my child Zaa Casimer Allan was very sick in the hospital, and was going to be sent to the Vancouver Children's Hospital. I called Harry and told him about Zaa, and Harry & Jenny came to the hospital. Harry said a prayer and then blew in his hand and then on Zaa's chest, then left. The nurse checked on Zaa and said what ever that elder did to Zaa to keep on doing it, because he was getting better and didn't have to be sent to the Vancouver Children's hospital. Harry was not only a political leader but a healer as well.

Bruce Allan

Stellat'en First Nation

I did not know Harry well. When we spoke, we spoke about community values and the needs of people for safe and healthy housing, and of people coming from our Members' communities trying to make a go in larger urban centers. It was very evident that he cared greatly about his people, particularly the youth. The words of the song "Prayer of St. Francis" remind me of many of the things he said to me about how he viewed his role as a leader.

Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love

Where there is injury, your pardon Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there despair in life, let me bring hope

Where there is darkness only light

And where there's sadness over joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Ronald A. Prochot
Building Inspector
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

On behalf of Bill Poser, I'd like to submit this memory that he shared with me yesterday: Harry was a very fluent speaker of his language who used it as much as he could, even with people like me who were not very good at it. He was also very knowledgeable about the bush, including the detailed terminology for animals of different ages and types. It was from him, for example, that I learned the detailed terminology for types of beaver: different ages, types, and sexes, their trails, and so forth.

- Dr. William J. Poser, Linguist, Past Executive Director of the Yinka Dene Language Institute

Harry often provided valuable insights into how animals behaved in the bush and how this could then inform natural resource management decisions. In his own humble way of putting things, I remember him once saying about Aboriginal traditional knowledge, 'Maybe we don't have all the answers to everything but I think we know enough to help make good decisions.'

Kevin Ward, Past Communications Coordinator of Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

I am saddened at the passing of Tribal Chief Harry Pierre. My condolences to Harry's family; and personally thank the family for sharing this time with the Tribal Council.
Thank you

Larry Nooski / Nadleh Whut'en

On behalf of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and on behalf of the Lacerte family, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Pierre family and to the members of the Tl'azt'en Nation for your loss. The BCAAFC Provincial Board of Directors will be meeting on February 23 and we will have a moment of silence in honor of Harry Pierre and his family.

In Friendship and support,

Paul Lacerte
Executive Director
BCAAFC

What I loved about being around Harry – his voice. I loved to hear him talk. His wisdom and knowledge was very valuable to us all. He was a very honorable gentleman and I know everyone loved him very much. Jenny too, she is always so quiet but very wise, you can see it in her eyes. Our prayers are with you, your children and grandchildren at this time and always.

Love Always Ingrid Davis (Bjorklund) and Family.

To My dear friend Harry Pierre

Harry, you are a warrior, I remember when you came to the hall in Tache, Ed John and I were singing a "West Coast Lahal Song" you gave us both heck! And right there on the spot, you sang a Carrier Song! A piece of me is gone with you Harry, I will miss you, say Hello to Winnie for me!

Harry your work here on this earth is done! Walk in the light! You did a remarkable job and your shoes will be hard to fill.

To the family of Harry.... Jennie, Kids, Linda, and all the Pierre Ladies, to Ed John and family, to Keith Marcellais and daughter, to the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, I am with you, My prayers are shining down on you right now. All my love to you. Harry would not want you to be hurt!

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I am small, and weak.

I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes

Ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made

And my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand

The things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy-myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as the fading sunset,

My spirit will come to you without shame.

Rest in peace my Brother Warrior

From Robert E. Sebastian and Family.

Hazleton, BC

I am deeply saddened, and shocked. No words can express how I feel, My deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the CSTC communities who loved and respected him, his leadership, his humor, and especially his will to never lose our culture, language, and the fight for our total independence. God has another Angel up there...looking down upon us. My prayers to all that are in grieving, I share in this as well. I

Geraldine Flurer

Saikuz First Nation

My sincerest condolences to the family. While I had only met and talked to Chief Pierre (I only knew him as Chief Pierre) a couple of times, it was truly a pleasure to talk to one of our elders with such substance and strength of character.

Skid'm del Hoya't

Wayne Campbell

I heard of the very sad news in your community this morning with the death of former Tribal Chief Harry Pierre, and just wanted to let you know how sorry I am for your loss. I know he will be deeply missed.

Zoë Carlson

Thank you for the information on Chief Pierre. I'm very sorry to hear it. He was a man who radiated dignity. We'll watch for information on the service.

Greg McDade, Ratcliff & Co.

Harry Pierre was a rare kind of guy, very intelligent and able to really communicate in a meaningful way with people at all levels.

Keith Williams, Former Adult Education Instructor for the Tl'azt'en Nation

I was in Tachie when the news of Harry's passing arrived. We were to meet with him and several other keyoh holders that day. What a great loss for the community!

Tony Pearse, Natural Resource and Land Use Management Consultant

Harry was a very dedicated husband and father, he enjoyed his children and was very proud of each and everyone of them.

He was also a great leader when he was Chief for Tl'azt'en Nation and later as Tribal Chief at CSTC and was very concerned of the Treaty Process. His greatest concern was the land, he always said, money is nothing but if you have land, a person can survive for a very long time. He always made sure the Elders were involved in the decision making process as well. He was very fluent in Carrier and English, he ensured he explained everything to the Elders in the Carrier Language so they fully understood what was being stated in English.

Harry had a wonderful sense of humor, his story telling and jokes will be greatly missed.

Peggy Forbes

Nakazdli Band Council

Harry is a man of leadership, respect, pride, and integrity. As far as long as I have known him both in profession and socially, I found Harry very strong-minded of his culture both from the past to present. He was always full of wisdom and spoke of his people with pride and a strong voice. He was a man of leadership especially when I first met him a few years ago and I am very honored to have known him and worked with him. I was always very content to see him during my darkest hour because of his wisdom I felt more revived and encouraged to move on and continue to pursue with my journey. He will be sadly missed by us all as my heart and prayers goes out to his wife, family and closest friends. He is in our memories and his spirit will continue to live among us all.

Kevin Alec

It is with great sadness for our people. We have lost so many loved ones in the last week within our territory. Knowing that they are in a better place and that their Spirit will continue to guide us in our work is a blessing. Harry and others will continue to lead us in spirit.

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services we wish you strength and peace.

Warner Adam

Carrier Sekani Family Services

To the family and friends of Chief Harry Pierre

The Haida Nation mourns your loss and sends our prayers for strength and comfort. Chief Pierre's work and accomplishments in the political world in particular in the negotiations with industry and government continues to benefit all.

Chief Harry modeled for all of us traditional dignity, love for the land and respect for all .

His concern and work on behalf of all Aboriginal Peoples and Commitment to achieving justice is well-known and greatly appreciated.

Haw'aa to all the Carrier Sekani, Chief Harry's Family and friends for sharing Chief Harry Pierre with all of us.

Until we meet again.

Arnie Bellis

Vice President of the Haida Nation