

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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News Release

February 28, 2022

UBCIC Remembers Kukpi7 Robert Shintah, Former Vice-President, and Honours his Indomitable Spirit and Lifetime of Political Leadership

(X^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skw^xwú7mesh (Squamish) and səllilwətał (Tsleil Waututh)/Vancouver, B.C. – February 28, 2022) It is with great sadness and much love in our hearts that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) marks the passing of Robert Shintah, a courageous and dear friend, leader, Chief, advocate, colleague, and community member from Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation. Known as Kukpi7 or Grand Chief Robert Shintah in his community, Robert was recognized for his kindness and passion that he channeled into his prolific political leadership.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC President, stated “Robert left his unique and indelible mark in the fight for the recognition and implementation of Indigenous Title and Rights, serving his Nation as Councilor, community Chief, and political Chief, as well as serving as the Chair of the St'at'imc Nation for two years and the Vice-President of UBCIC for seven and a half years. Robert leaves behind a legacy of pure love, kindness, and humour. Having worked closely with him in his capacity as UBCIC Vice-President, I can attest to his generous and compassionate spirit, as well as his infectious passion that allowed him to excel in Indigenous politics. He will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered.”

“Although Robert would always describe himself as a Chief and was committed to pursuing a career in politics to advance the Title and Rights of First Nations, he above all was a father who loved his daughters and family,” stated UBCIC Vice-President Chief Don Tom. “We remember that apart from his incredible advocacy and service to his community and people, Robert was a man that lit up the room with his warmth and big heart. His love for what he did and what he believed in translated into the care and kindness he extended to all those around him. His loss weighs heavily upon us, but we remember and celebrate all that made him dear and so beloved to us.”

“UBCIC extends our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all who knew and were touched by Robert and his humour, laughter, wisdom, and stories. In particular we send our condolences to his wife, Debi Shintah, his two daughters Roni and Llace, and his seven granddaughters and great grandchildren,” stated UBCIC Secretary-Treasurer Kukpi7 Judy Wilson. “Looking back at his lifetime of leadership and advocacy, including his work as UBCIC Vice-President and his critical role in helping form the First Nations Leadership Council, it is clear that Robert was a passionate and inspiring figure in the landscape of Indigenous politics, uplifting and supporting his people and First Nation communities. We will all continue loving, remembering, and celebrating the strong and compassionate man that was Robert.”

Robert’s family held a memorial service on the weekend. For any donations, please contact Shannon Porter at 250-457-0423 or shan_porter@hotmail.ca (auto-deposit)

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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