



# UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

## Statement

July 21, 2025

### UBCIC Remembers and Celebrates Jennifer Gibson

(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tseil Waututh)/ Vancouver, B.C. – July 21, 2025) The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) deeply mourns the loss of beloved UBCIC staff member Jennifer Gibson, who passed away on July 10, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Jennifer Gibson joined UBCIC in 2017 as a Specific Claims Researcher, bringing with her a rare combination of intelligence, creativity, and deep compassion. From the moment she arrived, Jennifer made a lasting impact - not only through her meticulous and passionate research but also through the warmth, humour, and sincerity she brought to every corner of our work and community.

Jennifer's infectious enthusiasm for uncovering hidden histories and her unwavering commitment to justice guided her every effort. She had a special gift for finding meaning in overlooked details, whether it was tracking down archival materials buried in basement boxes, exploring the stories behind women's gardens on reserve lands, or scrambling down the banks of the Fraser River with a camera on her shoulder to capture oral histories in the places they were lived.

Her talents extended beyond research. She was also a gifted writer and filmmaker, and she brought these skills together in service of Indigenous rights and historical truth. Jennifer had a deep love for exploring the roots and foundations of UBCIC, including the role of the Indian Homemakers Association in helping launch the organization. One of her most meaningful contributions was her work on *The Life and Accomplishments of Dr. Grand Chief Rose Charlie*—a publication that honours one of the remarkable First Nations women who helped found UBCIC. This project was especially close to her heart and exemplifies her dedication to uplifting and preserving Indigenous voices and leadership.

Even after Jennifer took leave to focus on healing from cancer, she continued to contribute to UBCIC in meaningful ways, including her final projects: conducting an interview with prominent former staff member Millie Poplar and providing meaningful support for a groundbreaking Indigenous Laws gathering. Her commitment never wavered. She was a trusted colleague, a beloved friend, and a valued member of the UBCIC family.

Many of us hold cherished memories of Jennifer. Her thoughtful approach to every task, her deep respect for community knowledge, her compassion, and her ever-present sense of humour. Her legacy

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[www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)



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lives on in the many projects she touched, in the stories she helped preserve, and in the hearts of all who had the honour of working with her and enjoying her laughter and conversation.

Jennifer will be deeply missed. Her spirit and contributions will continue to inspire us for many years to come.

Jennifer's obituary can be read here: <https://www.korucremation.com/obituaries/jennifer-anne-gibson/>, and notes that if you wish to do an act of kindness in Jennifer's honour, please consider a donation to the [Callanish Group](#).

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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](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)

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