



UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

News Release

March 31, 2026

UBCIC Honours the Life and Legacy of qiyəplənəx^w — Howard E. Grant, O.B.C.

(x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tseil Waututh)/ Vancouver, B.C. – March 31, 2026) The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) joins the Musqueam people and First Nations across these territories in mourning the passing of qiyəplənəx^w — Howard Edward Grant, and in honouring a life dedicated to uplifting First Nations title, rights, and self-determination. He passed away on March 29, 2026, at the age of 79.

Howard Grant was a highly respected and much-loved leader whose kindness and comprehensive work had a deep and far-reaching impact. Through his decades of service, he helped advance the recognition of First Nations title and rights, and treaty rights, supported Nations in their governance and negotiations work, and contributed to building the institutions that continue to serve First Nations in British Columbia today. In addition to his long-standing participation on Musqueam Council, Howard served as Executive Director of the First Nations Summit for more than 27 years, and UBCIC had the privilege of working closely with him as part of the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC). He also served as Executive Director of Musqueam Indian Band, and various senior management roles in the federal government. He was appointed with the Order of British Columbia in 2024 and presented with the King Charles Coronation Medal in 2025.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC President, stated, “Howard’s life was grounded in service to his people and to First Nations. He brought integrity, humility, strength and humour to his work and helped shape the path forward for the recognition of our title and rights. We honour him and all that he contributed to our Nations. I will greatly miss his presence and the reassuring sound of his voice at our meetings, and his boundless generosity.”

“Howard’s leadership was grounded in relationship, culture, and community,” added UBCIC Vice President Chief Councillor Linda Innes. “He understood the importance of walking together in this work, and his presence within the FNLC was deeply valued. He leaves behind a legacy that will continue to guide us.”

Chief Marilyn Slett, UBCIC Secretary-Treasurer, stated: “Howard carried his cultural teachings into every space he worked in. He was deeply committed to strengthening our Nations and supporting

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future generations. His guidance and generosity touched so many of us, and his legacy will continue to be felt. His advocacy and passion were relentless and inspiring.”

Howard will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to First Nations, his dedication to community, and the care he brought to his work and relationships. His legacy lives on in the strength of the Nations and people he supported throughout his life. UBCIC sends our deep condolences to his family and the Musqueam community.

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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

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