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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

MCK offers condolences on passing of Elijah Harper

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 21, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2013) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is offering condolences to the family, colleagues, admirers and many friends of Elijah Harper, who passed away on Friday, May 17th at the age of 64.

Elected Chief of his community before the age of 30, Elijah Harper's entire life was dedicated to serve his people. As the first Native person elected to the Manitoba provincial legislature, he will be forever remembered for his 1990 refusal to support the Meech Lake Accord, protesting that the proposed accord was negotiated without the input of Aboriginal people.

His quiet, resolute yet determined manner was an inspiration to all Native people. His later work was concentrated towards the reconciliation of First Nations and non-Aboriginal peoples, as a project that was very dear to his heart.

"Elijah Harper reminded people everywhere that one person could make a huge difference," said Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr. in a letter sent to his family. "He said more by standing up and holding an eagle feather than by giving a ten thousand word speech. Rarely has a single act had such a significant impact on an entire nation."

"We share in the sadness that is being felt across the country, but we also share in the acknowledgement and celebration of a life well lived," he concluded.

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