



NEWS RELEASE

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GTC SEEKS RESTITUTION FOR THE FAMILY OF EDWARD (EDDIE) SNOWSHOE

Today the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) stands with the family of Edward (Eddie) Snowshoe as they pursue a claim against the Government of Canada in the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta for Eddie Snowshoe's wrongful death.

Eddie Snowshoe was a 24-year old Gwich'in man that suffered a cruel, inhumane and degrading form of brutality being subjected to 163 days of segregation at various facilities while in the custody of the Canadian Correctional Service (CCS). This segregation along with the complete disregard of Eddie's mental health and failure to follow protocols resulted in his wrongful death on August 13, 2010 by suicide at the Edmonton Institution, which is a maximum security facility.

Eddie Snowshoe's treatment by CCS and his wrongful death resulted from systemic discrimination against him as an Indigenous person present in Canada's federal institutions. There were numerous breaches of Eddie's rights while an inmate by the staff and administration of the CCS. The illegal actions by the CCS are demonstrated by the numerous breaches of law that occurred while Eddie was in segregation where he was refused basic necessities such as toilet paper during this time period.

GTC Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik states "the pain and suffering unnecessarily inflicted by CCS through their actions and ultimately inaction, upon Eddie's family, his mother Effie and brothers Herbie, Ian and Peter, has caused irreparable harm to the family". Grand Chief Kyikavichik further states that "Eddie's undying love for his mother and brothers is what kept him alive for so long while enduring this cruel form of administrative torture and was essentially forgotten despite repeated attempts by his mother, Effie, for the CCS to take action which were ultimately ignored".

The GTC is supporting the family to bring this claim to ensure that all legal options for the family have been sought while seeking the transformation that is required in the CCS, particularly for young Indigenous inmates such as Eddie. By these actions, the GTC and Snowshoe family seek to raise awareness of the systemic discrimination present in Canada's federal institutions towards Indigenous inmates, and to finally achieve the justice that is long overdue for the family of Eddie Snowshoe.

Gwìch'inat Eenjit
Gàdatr'igwìjlcheii Gidilii
Gwìch'in nan, nakhwek'yùu ts'àt gwìtr'it
tthak nakhwidavee gwiheezàa eenjit



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

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