



STATEMENT

GTC STATEMENT ON PASSING OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On behalf of the Gwich'in Nation of the Northwest Territories, I would like to extend our condolences and our sympathies on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II has been the only monarch many of us have known for over two-thirds of a century. Along with the neighbouring Inuvialuit and Sahtu Dene and Metis, many of our Elders and families share fond memories of meeting with the Queen when she visited the Beaufort Delta region of the Northwest Territories in 1970.

As Treaty holders, the Gwich'in have a linkage with the Crown through Treaty 11 signed in 1921 and our Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement signed in 1992. The Crown established the original principles of Treaty-making through the Royal Proclamation of 1763 which was issued by King George III and acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal title and created the basis of Treaty-making by colonial governments with Indigenous Nations in North America.

Queen Elizabeth II was held in very high regard amongst the Gwich'in. It was common for Her Majesty to acknowledge milestones of our people such as significant anniversaries and notable achievements. This relationship was most recently honoured through His Royal Highness Prince Charles' visit to Treaty 11 Territory and meetings with Indigenous leaders in May of 2022 in Dettah.

We share with other Indigenous Nations, members of the Commonwealth and citizens of the United Kingdom, the profound sorrow at the passing of the Queen.

K'egwaadhat Nakhwah Vili' (God Bless You All)

Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik