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IN MEMORIAM

Chief Joseph (Joe) William Mathias November 12, 1943 — March 10, 2000

CBC NEWS | March 15, 2000

Standing room only at Mathias funeral

VANCOUVER - More than 1000 people gathered in North Vancouver Wednesday for the funeral of Squamish Nation Chief Joe Mathias.

Mathias died last week at the age of 56, following a brief illness.

Squamish nation drummers and singers played a traditional Coast Salish song at the combined Catholic-Shaker service.

In her eulogy, former First Nations co-chair Wendy John remembered Chief Mathias as a man of compassion, toughness and great insight.

"I know my heart feels the pain of his loss. We feel anger shock, confusion that he was taken from us There will never be another Joe Mathias," she says.

Grant told the audience Mathias referred to himself as a "bowlegged Indian from the wrong side of the tracks."

In a statement from Ottawa, Prime Minister Jean Chretien called Mathias a man of tremendous insight, marked by eloquence, passion and dignity.

The mourners included former Assembly of First nations Chief Ovide

Mercredi, Premier Ujjal Dosanjh, former Premier Glen Clark and federal Environment Minister David Anderson.



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