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IN MEMORIAM

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

TEXT OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA THRONE SPEECH REFERENCE TO CHIEF MATHIAS

We are saddened as well by the loss last week of Chief Joe Mathias of the Squamish First Nation. Chief Mathias was one of those rarest of individuals: someone who had insight into the past and a strong vision of the future. He understood his people's profound connection to this land, their culture and their ancestors. He understood the injustices of the past, and their long reach into the present. But he could also see the day when those injustices will be righted. And he worked tirelessly for that day -- helping to shape the BC Treaty Commission, helping to found the First Nations Summit, and leading the Squamish First Nation. As we remember him today, let us rededicate ourselves to that day when justice is finally done -- the most truly fitting memorial for a great leader, and a great British Columbian.



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