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[community]



[Calendar](#) | [Business Directory](#) | [Sports Communication for the Nation](#) | [People & Events](#)

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> [MORE PICTURES](#)

> [EULOGY](#) | Wendy John Speaks at the Memorial Service

> [TRIBUTES](#) | Major media outlets and others honour Joe's passing

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IN MEMORIAM

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

KAHTOU: The Voice of B.C.'s First Nations | April 2000

Farewell Chief Joseph William Mathias: T'echuxánm Siyám

Good bye to a great Chief, our local leader and National Leader. Man of all Seasons. The death of this great talented and charismatic person is timely and a loss felt worldwide.

Chief Joseph William Mathias dedicated his whole life to Indian causes and Land Claims. Chief Joe Mathias worked hard all his life for what he believed in, worked with his Squamish people and Indians across Canada. He did his best to better mankind. He sacrificed his personal life and family time to do this. It was a large task and he took it on, like a Warrior. Not many individuals could make this commitment. It is admirable.

Chief Joseph William Mathias championed the Land Claims fight. He spoke quietly, clearly and powerfully. Joe was powerful mostly because he showed respect to his opponents. He also let them speak first while he listened. He was excellent in assessing the situation. His accomplishments and achievements are many. He was a respected Native leader, Representative and an ideal spokesperson. Many Government agencies and Native leaders will more than likely comment that Chief Joe Mathias had a serious side, yes, but he had a good sense of humour. A humorous phrase at the right moment. A trait similar to our traditional ancestors and leaders of our past: very business like but with a sense of humour.

As a Squamish Nation community member, I did not get a chance to say "Thank You" directly to Chief Joe Mathias. So often thanks come too late, as mine. I want to "Thank You" to Joe's wife (Lisa), daughter (Stefany); Stefany's mother Janice, and close family and friends. Thank you for sharing him with so many committees, organizations, and our Council. My wish is that our younger generations of Squamish Nation will hopefully follow his foot steps and share his vision of common good for all.

So, I bid a fond farewell to Chief Joseph William Mathias (T'echuxánm) our great community Leader. I would say our Late Chief, "Your work is now done and you are now at Rest." I can visualize him sitting with our great Squamish Nation Ancestors in Heaven having a large Feast. If the heavens/sky thunder and lightening, this week it will be a sign of their Welcome to a Chief and a great Leader.

My condolences are sent to all.

Linda Daniels

Squamish Nation Member



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