



**YUKON
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News Release

AFN Yukon Regional Office Regional Chief Kluane Adamek

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honouring the Life of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elder Percy Henry

WHITEHORSE, YUKON – The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Yukon Region offers sincere condolences to the family, friends, and all loved ones of Elder Percy Henry of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, who was nearing his 97th birthday when he passed away peacefully in early April. AFN Yukon Region Knowledge Keepers Chuck Hume and Mary Jane Jim joined the family, friends, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens, community members, leaders, Knowledge Keepers, and youth who gathered on April 13th in Dawson City, Yukon - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Territory - to pay tribute to the remarkable and legendary Elder Percy Henry.

Elder Percy Henry was born on the Ogilvie River and was raised in Blackstone country. He and his family moved to Moosehide in 1931 where he spent time learning stories from his Elders and living off the land. He was instrumental in the advancement of Yukon First Nations' rights, languages, and nation building. In 1973, he and several other Yukon Chiefs traveled to Ottawa to present *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, initiating the foundation of work that laid out what the future of Yukon First Nation self-government could and would be.

Regional Chief Kluane Adamek shared, “a remarkable and beloved Knowledge Keeper, Elder Percy Henry served as Hähkè (Chief) of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government from 1968 to 1984. He was an incredible human being and leader, weaving the path for where we are today as Yukon First Nations. As Chief, he led Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government through the beginning of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and land claim process, and the contributions that he made while in leadership have echoed throughout Yukon and Canada's history”.

“In addition to his incredible work as Chief, Percy was a speaker and advocate of the Hän language and spent much of his life working to teach, share and preserve his knowledge of the language. As one of the last fluent Hän speakers in his community, Percy devoted his time to teaching and recording the language on tape so that it could be learned and listened to by future generations.”

“He touched the lives of so many here in the Yukon and far beyond, and his legacy continues to live on in such important ways. Percy’s life-long dedication to building and supporting strong futures for Yukon First Nations families and communities has left an impact beyond measure, and that legacy will continue to be felt for countless generations into the future.”

Regional Chief Adamek concluded, “Elder Henry will be deeply missed. I send strength, healing, and hope to his family, friends, and the community of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in as they navigate this tremendous loss.”

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Kluane Adamek

Regional Chief

Assembly of First Nations – Yukon Region

Unit 204 – 105 Titanium Way, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 0E7

rcadamek@afnyukon.ca

www.afn.ca

Communications

info@afnyukon.ca

www.afnyukon.ca

M: 867-333-0118