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Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

National Parole Board

Commission nationale des libérations conditionnelles

NPB

THIS WEEK

93-05

8 February 1993

A lifetime of achievement

Aboriginal issues and conditional release will be the main topic of the general Board meeting in 1993, which has been declared the International Year of the World's Indigenous People by the United Nations. NPB This Week presents a summary of community Board member Rose Charlie's life and work.

Rose Charlie is chief of the Chehalis Band of the Sto:Lo Nation in British Columbia. She was born on the Chehalis Reserve, which is near Chilliwack, but her family moved to Bainbridge Island in Washington State when she was 11 years old.

Rose Charlie considers herself lucky to have completed her schooling in a regular public school system, because most of her contemporaries had to attend a residential school.

She met her husband, Peter, on a family visit to the Chehalis Reserve and moved back for good after their marriage in 1949.

"We were so remote, there was no electricity, no water system, and no real road into the reserve from the main highway," says Rose Charlie. "We travelled to Chehalis mainly by boat on the Harrison and Fraser rivers whenever there was shopping to do in Chilliwack."

She was not used to such poor living conditions and determined to improve the standard of living for her people. This was the beginning of a lifetime of achievement in changing the social and political conditions of native people.

Rose Charlie is one of several aboriginal women who were involved in the Indian Act issue. She is probably best known for this work that led to amendments to the act that restored status rights to many thousands of native women who had married non-native men. In addition, their children became eligible for Indian status.

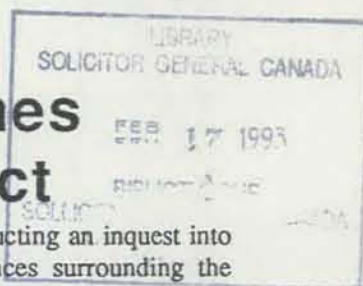
She has served on many committees, including the Vancouver Police Commission, British Columbia Human Rights, First Citizens' Fund, Aboriginal Women's Coalition, and the Vancouver Friendship Centre.

She was appointed a community Board member in January, 1988. In 1990, she was granted an honorary degree in law from the University of British Columbia for advancing the cause of aboriginal people.

As Chief of the Chehalis, Rose Charlie has restructured five different programs: housing, social development, education, village maintenance, and health. She belongs to the Sto:Lo Nation Community Futures Society, Indian Arts and Crafts Society of British Columbia, and the Mission Friendship Centre.

Rose Charlie's current project is to promote tourism by establishing a community cultural centre in a traditional longhouse. When it is built, it will feature woodcarvings, jewellery, baskets, and Cowichan sweaters made by local craftspeople, native dances, and traditional foods.

Jury reaches verdict



The jury conducting an inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death of Christopher Stephenson reached its verdict on 22 January 1993 at 11:30 a.m. The verdict contained 71 recommendations.

Many of these recommendations concern the National Parole Board, others affect the Correctional Service of Canada, and still others are directed towards the Solicitor General.

A committee of representatives of Ministry and provincial agencies has been struck to prepare a response to the recommendations, and Roy Evans, Special Inquiries and Case Audit, has been asked to represent the Board on this committee.

A limited number of copies of the verdict are available in the Communications Division at headquarters. Contact Gabrielle Gelin, (613) 954-6617.

Did you know?

Total expenditures on legal aid in Canada were \$412 million in 1990-91, representing a 21% increase over the previous year, a constant dollar increase of 15%.

Expenditures in constant dollar terms have grown in the four years up to and including 1990-91 by an average of 12% compared with an average of 4% in the six previous years.

In 1990-91, there were 979,763 applications for legal aid, a 13% increase above 1989-90. The national per capita expenditure was \$15.10.

Governments were the major funding source for Legal Aid plans in 1990-91, contributing 84% of total revenues, followed by legal profession contributions of 11%, client contributions of 3%, and other sources of 2%.

Payments to private law firms totalled 60% of legal aid expenditures in 1990-91.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Comings... and goings

Atlantic region: Alphonsine Saulnier of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, has been appointed as a part-time Board member for a period of three years, effective January 4, 1993.

Saulnier is a leading member of the Acadian community and belongs to many community organizations dedicated to mental health, family life, and women's issues.

