



The following statement is distributed on behalf of the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils

For Immediate Release



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Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Mourns the Passing of Jim Sark, Former Chief of Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations

It is with deep sorrow that the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils learned of the passing of George James (Jim) Sark, a long-time leader and former Chief of Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation, and father to L'Nuey Executive Director Jenene Wooldridge. Mr. Sark, a prominent figure in Mi'kmaq and Indigenous leadership, passed away peacefully this morning at the age of 84.

Born on February 17, 1940, at Lennox Island to the late Jacob Sark, former chief of Lennox Island, and Alma Mitchell (Cormier) Sark, Jim Sark's legacy as a community builder and tireless advocate for his people will forever be remembered. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Sark dedicated himself to improving the lives of Indigenous Peoples in Epekwitk and beyond.

Lennox Island First Nation Chief Darlene Bernard expressed her condolences, stating, "The passing of Jim Sark is a profound loss for our community. He was a visionary leader whose dedication to advancing the interests of our people was boundless. His contributions to the development of Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations are immeasurable, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations."

Abegweit First Nation Chief Junior Gould also shared his sentiments, remarking, "With the passing of Jim Sark, we have lost our oldest living Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. Every time we lose an elder, we lose countless stories, traditional knowledge and history. As chief of the Abegweit First Nation I am grateful for the many years of service Jim provided to his community. As our community, and the PEI Mi'kmaq community as whole, continues to grow and regain our role as stewards of this special island, Jim will be remembered as a significant part of the history to that got us to this point."

Throughout his tenure as Chief, Jim Sark spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure, employment, and community development. From pioneering the distribution of electricity in Lennox Island to overseeing the construction of essential facilities such as community halls, gyms, and housing, Mr. Sark's dedication to progress was evident in every aspect of his work.

In reflecting on his life and legacy, Chief Bernard added, "Jim Sark's impact extends beyond the borders of our communities. He leaves behind a legacy of resilience, innovation, and determination that will continue to guide us in our pursuit of a better future. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to know him."

The Assembly offers sincere condolences to the families and friends of Mr. Sark.

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About the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils:

- The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils is the governing body representing the collective interests of Mi'kmaq communities in Epekwitk, also known as Prince Edward Island.
- Committed to advancing the rights and well-being of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmaq of PEI), the Assembly works collaboratively to address the unique needs and challenges facing Mi'kmaq communities in the region.
- Through the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils, L'nuey and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI are governed by the full First Nations leadership of the province (Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations Chiefs and Councils).