

Remarks

Judith Sullivan-Corney

Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Presentation

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Senior Elder Awards

Monday, October 1, 2007

Halifax Marriott Harbourfront

Halifax, Nova Scotia

It is a great pleasure to introduce the winners of the Grand Chief Donald Marshall Senior Elder Awards.

Today we honour four people who have brought honour and service to the Mi'kmaq community. Dr. Daniel Paul of Halifax, Pauline Bernard of Membertou First Nation, Lillian Marshall of Chapel Island First Nation and Noel Joseph Gould of We'koqma'q (We-ko-magh) First Nation have spent their lives working for the Mi'kmaq to preserve language, culture and history.

Let me first acknowledge Pauline Bernard, a prominent member of the Membertou Advisory Committee and a member of the Wekatesk (we-ka-tesk) Singers and the Membertou Womens Drum Group. She started the first day care in Membertou, known as the Little Chiefs, a day care that is still operating today. She has served on the national education committee and the Membertou Veterans group. Pauline was also involved in establishing the Veterans Monument in Membertou and organizing Remembrance day Ceremonies there.

I now call on Pauline Bernard to accept the the award and ask Premier Rodney MacDonald, Minister MacIsaac and Ms. Caroline Marshall to make the presentation.

Lillian Marshall has served Mi'kmaq communities for more than 30 years with a strong dedication towards the preservation of the culture, language and heritage. She has written several books and her most recent contribution was the completion of the Mi'kmaq language CDs. As a language teacher, she enriches the lives of the children with stories and games she has developed to promote the culture and language. Miss Marshall is also well known for organizing and coordinating the annual Mid-Winter Feast for Chapel Island First Nation.

I now call on Lillian Marshall to accept the award and ask Premier Rodney MacDonald, Minister MacIsaac and Ms. Caroline Marshall to make the presentation.

Dr. Daniel Paul is well known throughout Canada for his writings, particularly his book We Were Not the Savages in which he brings to readers a better understanding of the history of the Mi'kmaq and their culture. He is known as an outstanding human rights activist and historian and his First Nations History web site is used extensively by scholars and students alike.

Dr. Paul is a recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of Nova Scotia for his outstanding work on behalf of his people.

I now call on Dr. Daniel Paul to accept the Grand Chief Donald Marshall Senior Memorial Elder Award and call on Premier MacDonald and Minister MacIsaac and Ms. Caroline Marshall to make the presentation.

Noel Joseph Gould has always demonstrated strong support for his community, church and Mi'kmaq culture and traditions. He served on band council and was Keptin for We'koqma'q. He spearheaded the restoration of the Malagawatch Cemetary and the We'koqma'q war veterans project. He and his wife the late Pauline Gould were instrumental in erecting the monument and alter at malagawatch cemetary. Noel was the historian, researcher and collector of information for the veterans memorial.

As a carpenter he supervised the restoration of Holy Trinity Church on the reserve and built the pews, altar and vestibule.

I now call on Noel Joseph Gould to accept the Grand Chief Donald Marshall Memorial Elder Award and call on Premier Rodney MacDonald and Minister MacIsaac and Ms. Caroline Marshall to make the presentations.

Thank you

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