

Melanie Washie

December 27, 1912 – January 19, 2007

Melanie Washie passed away peacefully at the Stanton Hospital early Friday morning, January 19, 2007 at the age of 95. Her husband, Pierre Washie, had predeceased her three years ago. Melanie is known by the Tli Cho people as an outstanding and courageous woman. As an adolescent, she broke winter trails for the elders during the harsh winters and is known to have traveled many miles on snowshoes in the winter for much needed food for her widowed mother. As a young woman, she volunteered to care for children whose parents were hospitalized. As a mother, she fostered children, nursed and raised a baby whose parents passed away while raising her own. Melanie was also a midwife to many Tli Cho women in the region in her time and she also cared for the dying. She was a hard worker who loved living on the land and who was passionate about the environment. She loved and adored children and youth. Melanie was a very giving person who thought of others before herself. She had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh.

The family thanks Dr. R.J. Cunningham, the Intensive Care Unit and the Medicine Unit of Stanton Hospital for the care they provided to our mother. The family also thanks the Tli Cho Government, the Tli Cho Band Office, the Tli Cho Scholarship Committee, the Tli Cho Housing Authority, the staff of the Tli Cho Senior Unit, Father Pochat for the church service in Rae-Edzo, Sister Dianne Nauld for preparing the tribute to our mother, the entire Tli Cho Community and all those who traveled from the Tli Cho Communities and from Yellowknife to pay their last respects to our mother. The family also thanks all our relatives and friends who worked at the gravesite, as pallbearers, and those who made the church service, the burial service and the community feast a memorable one for our family.

One Elder indicated that, "It will be hard to find another woman like Melanie for she was one of a kind and there will never be another like her." Melanie was a strong advocate for education and encouraged her family to pursue education and to work hard to reach their goals.

Melanie had twelve children; Joseph Yakkeina, Edward, Isidore, Francis, Martin (deceased), James Wah-Shee, Johnny, Alphonse (deceased), Rosa Wah-Shee, Alexis, Joseph Jean, Rita Mary (deceased). Melanie and Pierre were blessed with many grandchildren: Dorothy, Mary Louise, Larry James, Doreen, Peter John, Norman, Mary Christine, Skye, Sandy Ann and Leonard, Dwayne and Travis, Virginia, Monique, Robert, Joyce, Albertine, and Kelly, John, Joanne, Justin, Sheila, Stanley, Denis, Patricia, Dallas, Richard, Roger, John and James, Aaron, and Florita, Orrie, Alexander, and Jason.

Melanie will forever remain special in our hearts and will be deeply missed by her family.

Mahsi cho.

