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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nisga'a Nation Mourns Loss of Dr. Joseph Gosnell

August 18, 2020 – New Aiyansh, B.C.: It is with incredible sadness the Nisga'a Nation announces the passing of Dr. Joseph Arthur Gosnell. Dr. Gosnell passed away peacefully at his home in New Aiyansh after a long fought battle with cancer.

Dr. Joseph Arthur Gosnell, Sr., O.C., O.B.C., LL.D

Joseph Arthur Gosnell was born June 21, 1936, to Eli and Mary Gosnell. Joe was a hereditary Nisga'a Chieftain of the Laxsgiik (Eagle) Clan with the Nisga'a name, Sim'oogit Hleek.

Dr. Gosnell was a lifetime commercial fisherman and renowned politician having served the Nisga'a Nation in many capacities over his lifetime. Most notably, Dr. Gosnell was President of the Nisga'a Nation when British Columbia's first modern treaty, the landmark Nisga'a Final Agreement, was finalized between the Nisga'a Nation and the Governments of British Columbia and Canada in 2000.

"Today we have lost a giant," says Eva Clayton, President of the Nisga'a Nation. "Through his wisdom, dignity, and determination, Dr. Joseph Gosnell helped lead the Nisga'a people out of the *Indian Act* and into self-government through his work in negotiating and implementing the Nisga'a Treaty, which has become a beacon of hope for people the world over. His focus was always on what the Nisga'a, British Columbians, and Canadians can achieve together. His legacy will help shape the project of reconciliation for generations to come."

Joe traveled the world and received many awards and honours in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the Nisga'a Nation, British Columbia, Canada, and indeed the world.

Dr. Gosnell was married to his lovely wife Audrey Adele for 64 years and lived in his home community of New Aiyansh. Together, they had seven children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the family. Those wishing to extend greetings or condolences to the family of Dr. Gosnell may do so by email: communications@nisgaa.net.

For further information:

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