



Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

Former Grand Chief passes away

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 15, Enniska/February 2011) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is saddened to learn of the passing of former Grand Chief Ronald (Ron) Kirby. He passed away early this morning in hospital. He had been ill for several weeks.

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke offers its deepest condolences

He was first elected to office in 1962 and was elected for nine consecutive terms before retiring from politics in 1980. He served as Grand Chief from 1972 to 1976.

“Ronnie was a father, an ironworker and a leader,” said former Grand Chief Andrew Delisle, Sr., who served with Chief Kirby from the very beginning of his political career. “He was elected just a few years after the Seaway came through Kahnawà:ke. He was extremely community-minded and had worked very hard for the betterment of our community. We shall miss him.”

He was also a noted sportsman and was a well-known lacrosse goaltender.

He was predeceased by his wife Barbara in 2003 and is survived by his children Chief Rhonda Kirby, Kelly, Calvin, Shawn, Blaik, Tracey and several grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother Cecile and siblings Herby, Sam, Freddie, Daniel, Barbara, Josephine, Russell Frank, Carol, Annie and Lorna.

Chief Kirby was 74 years old. He would have turned 75 on Saturday.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

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