

RECOGNITION OF AN INDIGENOUS ELDER

Ànałàhàsh (Sam) Johnston

This recognition pays tribute to the contributions of an Indigenous Elder to public education in Canada.

Nominated by the Yukon Association of Education Professionals (YAEP)



Ànałàhàsh (Sam) Johnston is a well-respected Teslin Tlingit Elder with an impressive political history. He served as Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council for more than a decade and was also a speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. He holds the distinction of being the first Aboriginal speaker in Canada.

As Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council, Sam played an important role in crafting a document that laid out a new vision of land claims and Yukon Aboriginal self-government. In 1973, Sam and all the Chiefs from the Yukon presented a historical document, entitled *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow*, to the Liberal government, which led to the creation of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

Above all, Sam promotes aduwané (respect) among students, staff, and community members as he believes this is the path to learning. He travels from Teslin to Whitehorse to help teach the Tlingit language and share stories that are both traditional and personal. Sam is an integral part of the language and culture program at Khàtìnas.àxh Community School and the embodiment of Hà Khùstiyí, the Tlingit way of life. His knowledge of the language and local Tlingit culture is deeply rooted in this community and the school culture.