

Executive Office  
Box 480  
La Ronge, Saskatchewan  
S0J 1L0  
Phone: (306) 425-2183  
Fax: (306) 425-2590



# Lac La Ronge Indian Band

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, January 29th, 2024

For Immediate Release

### **LLRIB Mourns the Loss of Esteemed Elder and Former Council Member Thomas “Thompson” Leonard Mirasty**

(Treaty 6 Territory, Woodland Cree) *Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Sask.* Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) announces, with heavy hearts, the passing of respected Elder and former council member, Thomas "Thompson" Leonard Mirasty. Born on March 19, 1949, in Little Red, Sask., he passed into the spirit world on January 25, 2024, in Big River, Sask., at the age of 74.

Over many decades, Elder Mirasty exemplified strong leadership within LLRIB, guiding numerous committees and boards with wisdom and insight. His active involvement in traditional ceremonies and his constant presence at countless meetings and gatherings established him as a cornerstone of the community. Known for his big smile and friendly demeanor, His dedication to sharing his experience and knowledge made him a cherished colleague, friend, and mentor. His profound impact on LLRIB meetings and events was enduring.

Elder Mirasty dedicated many years to serving as both a Band Councillor and a member of the Council of Elders for the LLRIB, representing Little Red River Reserve, where he provided essential guidance to the LLRIB Council.

A devoted husband to Sharon, his wife of 53 years, a loving father to their eight children, and a proud grandfather to 47 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren, his family life mirrored the warmth and commitment he brought to his roles within the community.

In his younger years, after completing military training in the 60s, he worked variously as a pulp mill worker, a school bus driver for Little Red and Prince Albert Charter Bus lines, a community carpenter, and a mechanic at Christopher Lake. His entrepreneurial ventures included hauling wood, welding, and playing the fiddle. He

also worked at Log Technologies in Alberta. A man of the land, Mirasty was an avid hunter, always providing for his family and relatives.

"We are grateful for the time we had with Elder Thompson. His wisdom and guidance have been an immense blessing. He will be remembered as a pillar of strength and wisdom in our community," said Chief Tammy Cook-Searson.

The funeral ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, at Little Red River School, Saskatchewan, followed by a farewell pipe ceremony. Traditional Elders will officiate the ceremonies, with interment to follow at Little Red Cemetery on Little Red River Reserve.

LLRIB's Chief and Council extend their heartfelt condolences to the Mirasty family and to all those in the community of Little Red River who mourn his passing.

His lifelong commitment to his community, his leadership, and his role as a keeper of traditional knowledge will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

#### **About the Lac La Ronge Indian Band:**

*The Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) is the largest First Nation in Saskatchewan, with a population of 11,843. Its lands cover diverse territories from central agricultural areas to the northern boreal forests. Its main office is headquartered in La Ronge, near the Pre-Cambrian Shield. Committed to preserving its Cree heritage and language, LLRIB has made significant advances in education, economic development, and social initiatives, fostered by decades of strong, visionary leadership.*

#### **Media enquiries may be directed to:**



Tina Pelletier  
Communications Consultant  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Cell: 306-941-7120  
Email: [indigenouscreaturecomms@gmail.com](mailto:indigenouscreaturecomms@gmail.com)