

Joseph (“Joey”) Andrew Desjarlais

Joseph (“Joey”) Andrew Desjarlais, 59, passed away on June 16, 2018 in Vancouver. Funeral services will be held on August 7, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Yellowknife, NT. Burial and prayers to follow at Lakeview Cemetery and a feast down by the Yellowknife River for family and friends.

Joey was born in Yellowknife, NT on March 3, 1959. During his early years in Yellowknife and Lutsel K’e, he spent many seasons out on the land with his grandparents and relatives. His adventurous spirit and ambition as a geological surveyor brought him to many places in Canada and the U.S. Joey held his Dene homeland, family and friends very close to his heart wherever he was in the world. He was fluent in Chipewyan and spoke with his Elders Ann Yourchenko and Joe Desjarlais everyday. He lived a difficult life and battled his illness for many years, but let few know of his personal struggles. Until the end of his life, Joey maintained an upbeat attitude and clever sense of humour. His family wish to express their gratitude to the Dr. Peter’s Centre in Vancouver who cared for Joey with dignity, compassion and kindness. Marci cho.

Joey is survived by his daughters Christina Gray and Katie Gray; siblings Barbara Schreck, Shirley Conrad, Valerie Conrad, Roland Conrad and Karen Annis; nieces Jessie MacKenzie, Shallen Murray, Hannah Schreck, Rebecca Schreck, Sarah Schreck; nephew Trey Madsen; Elders Auntie Ann Yourchenko, Uncle Joe Desjarlais and many more relatives from Lutsel K’e. Joey will now be walking in peace with his mother Celine Conrad, uncle Alexandre Desjarlais and grandparents Louizon and Marie Adele Desjarlais.

