

In Memoriam: Alfred Moses

Norman Snowshoe



Alfred Ronnie John Moses was born in Fort McPherson on July 4, 1977 to Martha and Winston Moses. Martha and Winston's only son Alfred was raised in Fort McPherson for the first four years of his life, and then they

all moved to Inuvik at the age of five to start his educational journey in kindergarten at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School. He graduated from Samuel Hearne Secondary School in 1995. After graduating high school, he continued his postsecondary education; first with Red Deer College and then at the University of Alberta where he completed his Bachelors of Kinesiology and Sport Studies.

Alfred had a particular love of sports and gained a lot of mentors through his many coaches and teammates. Alfred was an advocate for sports and recreation and, as a young man living a very healthy lifestyle, he participated in multiple sports such as basketball, track and field, and wrestling. Being involved in sports was the start of his traveling, and he attended tournaments all over Canada and even the United States. He was always proud when he or his friends would win championships and they were always excited to get pictures taken together. This was where most of his true friendships were made.

Alfred came back home to work as a Community Wellness Coordinator for the Inuvik Health Authority with the Department of Health and Social Services. One of his goals for the community was to start a Beaufort Delta-wide non-smoking campaign: "Don't Be A Butt Head." Through this campaign he helped a lot of people and they supported him by giving up smoking, especially his parents when he made his mother break a cigarette in half and she never smoked again. This campaign helped to pass a bylaw that restricted smoking in some of the public areas of Inuvik while Alfred was a Town Councillor with the Town of Inuvik. He then continued working in the wellness field and took a position at the Diavik Diamond Mine as a Hygienist and Wellness Coordinator and passed on his gained skills to those he worked with for many years.

Alfred decided he wanted to put his name forward for the Legislative Assembly in the 2011 NWT election and he won his seat as the MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake by just five votes. In 2015 he was appointed to Cabinet and served as the Minister for Education, Culture, and Employment, the Minister for Youth, and the Minister for Housing

and Municipal and Community Affairs. During this time, he advocated for many things and had a hand in many great initiatives such as the junior kindergarten program, the anti-bullying legislation, the implementation of 9-1-1 emergency services for across the Northwest Territories, affordable housing, as well as ensuring our Elders were well taken care of. He loved being able to help people all across the north, especially our community. He always welcomed anyone who needed help on items such as housing, addictions, and medical support. Alfred made time for one-on-one meetings for coffee and chats as he believed in an open-door policy and was always so approachable and often had people reach out to him from other communities that weren't in his constituency.

After his role in the Territorial Legislature, Alfred took on a role with the Inuvik Warming Shelter because he wanted so very much to help the vulnerable people of Inuvik – to make sure people had a safe space and make sure it was known and addressed as an important issue for the people in his community. He was the type of person, that if it was a hot summer day, he would make time to hand out some cold water to everyone, one time making it an afternoon goal with his dad Winston.

Alfred had a lot of love from his biggest supporters, his parents Martha and Winston along with his sisters Agnes, Laura, Stephanie, and Heather. Although Alfred was devoted to his work in all of his careers, he was most importantly a family man. He made sure to always put his family first. His nieces and nephews were his favorite past time, as well as making his parents brunch on special occasions. He enjoyed attending community events and to jig and jive at any old-time dance, one time as the King of the Muskrat Jamboree with his Queen Greta Sittichinli. He was an enthusiast for exercise and running marathons and even completed in the Canadian Death Race in Grande Cache, Alberta. He loved to canoe and be on the land hiking and always taking the scenic route, he travelled both by canoe through the Northwest Territories on the Mackenzie River and drove all across the country and to Alaska at one time. Alfred loved to read and write and that shined through as inherited from his dad Winston, a great public speaker, a man of many words, with guidance and prayers for everyone.

Alfred had an infectious and joyous laugh, he was always smiling and encouraging people to be and do their best. He joked a lot but was also wise, he made a difference. He always put everyone before himself, as a leader and role model. Alfred helped a lot of people and touched so many lives during his short time here. Through his parents he was a man of prayer and believed in God and his savior Jesus Christ. With his family in heaven, we know he will continue to watch over his loved ones and keep everyone he knew in his prayers.

Alfred was very passionate about supporting and contributing to local organizations in need. He recently sold a lot of his traditional arts and crafts to support the East Three Elementary School by donating the amount he made to the students for their breakfast program. Alfred believed that the students needed to start their day with a good first meal. The family welcomes the continuation of his generous legacy by inviting contributions to organizations he loved supporting which included: the Inuvik Food Bank, the Inuvik Homeless Shelter, the Terry Fox Run, and the East Three School and its students, as he knew they would be the next leaders of his beloved community.

Alfred, you were the voice for our people, community, and region and you will be greatly missed!

Norman Snowshoe is the godfather of Alfred Moses. He provided this eulogy for Alfred's Celebration of Life on August 2, 2022 in Inuvik.