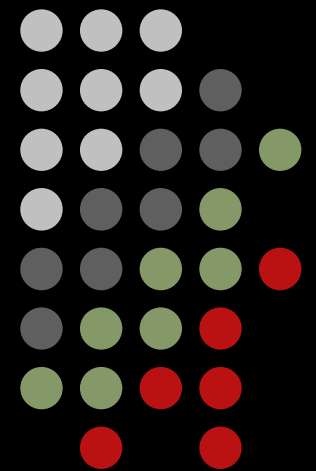


Abraham C. Joe

Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Honoured Elder, 2005

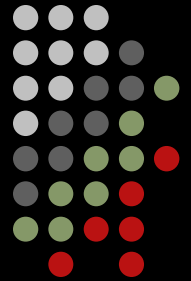


HTG Honours Abraham C. Joe



- Abraham C. Joe has had a life-long involvement in politics and community activism, offering significant and continual support of the land claims efforts of Island Coast Salish communities.
- 2006 is the 30th anniversary of the “land claims committee” which Abraham was the founding chair.
- Still an active member of our EAB, HTG honours Abraham C. Joe

Unwavering supporter to HTG



- In his role as an Elder and influential community member, Abraham has been unwavering in his support of our group, our team and our chief negotiator.
- He speaks frequently publicly about HTG.
- He prays for HTG regularly, both in private and at our meetings.
- His visionary statement “*We are going to beat the government*” has inspired and motivated HTG.



What HTG Workers have said



- Abraham is renowned as a powerful, assertive speaker.
- He has great integrity and independence.
- He has a strong belief in asserting our rights on behalf of all Hul'qumi'num member nations.
- He has an ever-present, distinctive humour.
- He is a man with a vision of where we should go. Most of us just walk and don't know where we are going. Abraham knows.
- Gracious in his family and community oriented teachings.

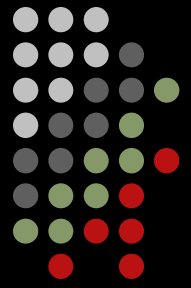
What HTG Workers have said



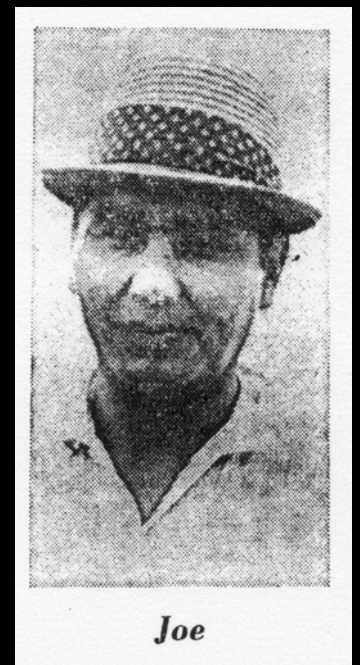
- Abraham said he “has never enjoyed his sofa in 55 years”, he’s always hard working.
- He has an impressive ability to generate a groundswell of emotion around an issue by speaking in a way that makes you open and receptive.



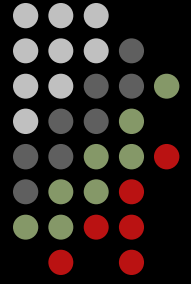
Life Experiences



- Abraham was born in 1925, and lives on his families land in Comiaken.
- He holds the Indian name *Xwutth'in'thut*, which has a history connected to Tsartlip.
- He went to Kuper Island residential school, where he got the nick-name "*P'utoon*".
- He was an accomplished boxer in his youth.
- Abraham has always been a hard worker. He:
 - Frequently fished with his grandfather as a boy;
 - Was a logger as a young man in his 20s; and
 - Worked hard as berry & livestock farmer and operated a rock quarry on his CP land.



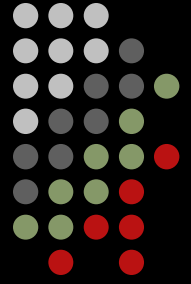
Shaker Church



- In 1967 Abraham joined the Shaker Church.
- He travels widely in Washington State and BC, often called on as an elder member of the Shaker church.



Cowichan Tribes Leader



- At Cowichan, Abraham was head of public works department (in charge of roads, sewage, water and other services) and helped families when a Cowichan River dam burst in 1967.
- Head of grievance committee.
- Served on road committee.
- Acted as dog catcher.
- He was a Cowichan band councillor for several years.



Abraham worked to rid Cowichan of old wells like this

Cowichan Housing Crisis



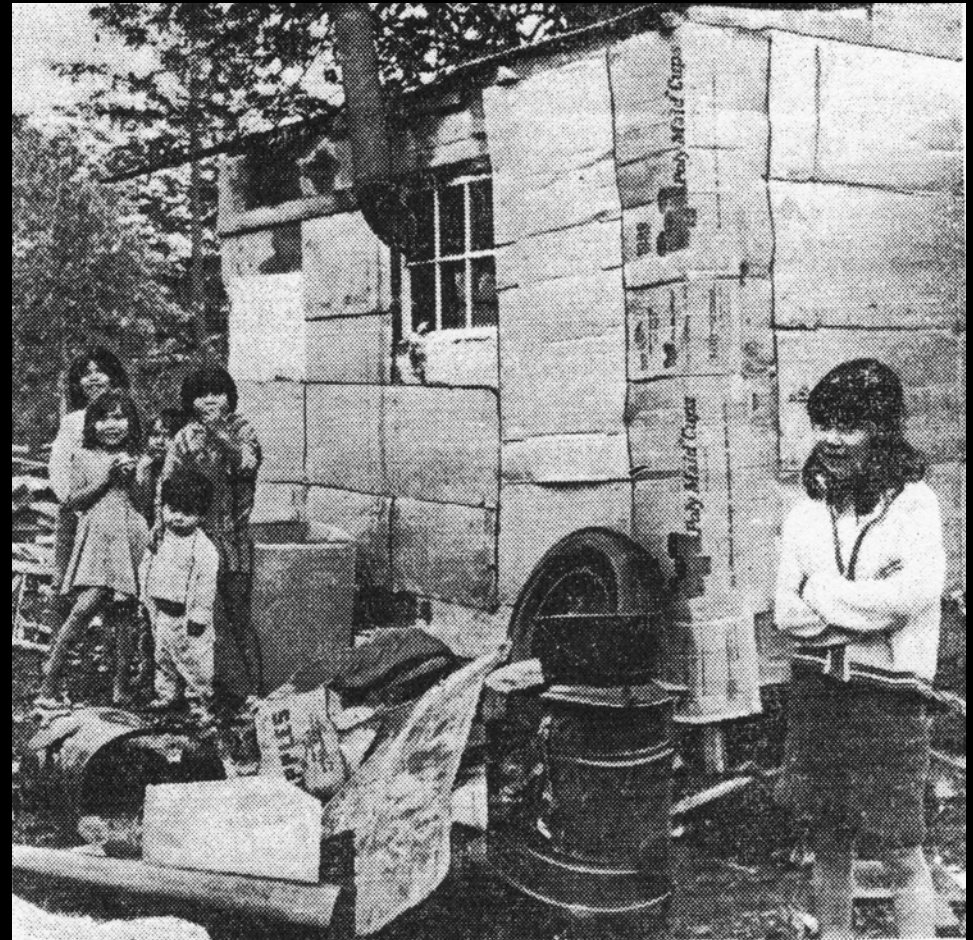
- In 1966, Cowichan housing was in a crisis, with many in shacks or unacceptable homes.
- That year, Cowichan was offered only 2 new houses in spite of need.
- Abraham organized massive protests, with broad support from Tribes across BC, UVic, UBC, and neighbouring communities, generating nation-wide media attention.



Cowichan Housing Crisis



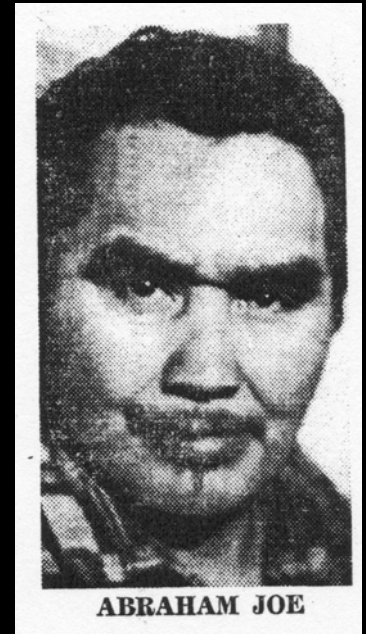
- Abraham's political efforts brought an unprecedented federally funded housing project to Cowichan.
- Federal Indian Affairs Minister Arthur Laing responded with 81 new houses to be built between 1966 and 1971 in 'the sub'.



Land Claims Committee



- As a Cowichan councillor, Abraham chaired the Lands Claims Committee, along with Abel Joe and Joe Elliot as committee members and Louise Underwood as secretary.
- This Lands Claims committee formed in 1976 to take the Hul'qumi'num communities' claims to government.
- They were able to get the initial involvement of First Nations from Saanich to Snuneymuxw, and the group had meetings over several years.



Land Claims Committee



- This important intertribal committee rallied strong political sentiment among many Island Coast Salish Bands in response to land claims policies of the federal government.
- This effort continued for several years and planted the seeds for the formation 16 years later of the HTG.

Plaque Honouring Land Claims Committee



- His dream has long been to have a picture of the original members of the land claims committee hanging on the wall in the HTG.
- Today HTG honours Abraham, and his dreams.



Abraham
C. Joe



Abel Joe



Joe Elliot



Louise
Underwood