

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE**

The Oceti Sakowin has lost one of its greatest leaders. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe acknowledges the passing of the great Chief Leonard Crow Dog, and expresses its condolences to Chief Crow Dog's tiyospaye. Chief Crow Dog was recognized around the world as a miracle-working spiritual leader, and he has a lasting legacy that is eternal. As a spiritual leader and political advocate, Chief Crow Dog impacted the hearts and lives of many. The Tribe will remember his impact on its members, its community, and for the work he did to secure tribal sovereignty and religious freedoms that are essential to Dakota life.

Chief Crow Dog possessed an incredible spiritual connection with The Creator and other heightened abilities that allowed him to guide the Sioux Nation. He had a way of connecting with The Creator, and through ceremony healed sickness. He radiated an energy that was so stark people were drawn to him and would not leave his presence. There was a strong connection between him and the beings around him, whether it be us two-leggeds or four-legged relatives or the plants, rocks, and water that surround us. His reverence for Lakota Values served as a continual reminder to respect our relatives despite their size or ability to communicate with us.

A community member conveys her gratitude to Chief Crow Dog and stated, "To have been given my Dakota name along with my brothers and sisters at the age of 12 at the American Indian Movement School in Minneapolis is such a blessing, and I am so fortunate to have been his tozan (niece). He was simply different from everyone." Chief Crow Dog taught that no one was an orphan on Unci Maka (Grandmother Earth), and he adopted many as family. Chief Crow Dog's legacy will remain in our community, and to further his teachings of unity and the faith, the Tribe encourages everyone to foster the relationship between our spirits and The Creator.

The Tribe recognizes that this time is not one to be sorrowful that Chief Crow Dog will no longer be with us in physical form, but to rejoice in the fact that he has started his journey to the place we all hope to be one day. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe expresses its fortunate time with Chief Crow Dog by expressing condolences to his family and those that have been impacted by his prayers, encouragement, power, and capability to connect them with the universe.