

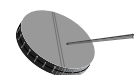
Elizabeth (Zaabè) Mackenzie

*“Eyit’ à chekoa hotii etexèht’e laani nàowo nàk’e t’ à hoghàgeetq nìdè, dqne nàke laani nàgetso-ha...
Kw’ ahtidee è eneèkoa ayìghq gojde sii, ìdaà nìdè gogha k’ aat’ ii-ha soni ayehdi hot’ è...
Nadaqà nìwà a gogha nànièwhewoo eyits’ q weghàà laani t’ ahsii gots’ qajà.”*

Ehts’ oke Yats’ ehtii Zaà 30 dzeqè, 1917 ekò wegòhtj jìlè. Jeremy eyits’ q Liza Chocolate hazqò t’ à giza fòhdj jìlè, jìtèq hot’ è. Dì xoo gots’ q jdaàkò enjht’ èkò aet’ jì, wemq etajwo ts’ q, eko t’ à hoòq daats’ q dì weghòò jìlè. Elizabeth, wemba Maria yeèhsq eyits’ q dechj nj edaanì la net’ q hàaa weghàlats’ eeda hoghàyeèhtq hot’ è. Naèq daatsq sjià weghòò ekò Elizabeth, Louis Mackenzie xè xonjda eyits’ q jdaà djènq gots’ q yexè dechj aet’ jì t’ à ehdzo ageh?j eyits’ q nàgezè jìlè. Giza etòhdj enjht’ èkò ageht’ jì ajà ts’ q?ò Behchokò nàgedè eyits’ q nàèdik’ èèzqò kò goxè eghàlaeda ajà.

Behchokò nàgedè ekò, Elizabeth (Zaabè) nàhoèhwhoo t’ à kòta dq ts’ àdì jìlè, yahtikò dq ts’ àdì, Ts’eko Etexè Eghàlagiidè eyits’ q Behchoko/Edzo Enjht’ èkò K’ àodeè, gots’ àdì, netq xoo dq ts’ àdì jìlè. 1989 ekò, Tjìcho Nèk’ e Enjht’ èkò K’ àodeè holjì t’ à, Elizabeth goxè aet’ jì t’ à yek’ e eghàlajda jìlè. Goxè eghàlajda k’ èxà, Tjìcho Nèk’ e Enjht’ èkò K’ àodeè wek’ èhoèdzq agjìlà, eyits’ q 1991 ekò Behchokò enjht’ èkò wegòò hòlì t’ à, wenàhoèhdi-ha Zaabè Mackenzie Enjht’ èkò wjzì eljì agjìlà. 1997 ekò, Ts’ èko K’ àowo Gha K’ àowodeè nàowo wets’ qòhk’ e t’ ahsii gighàj?ò jìlè, kòta nezì dqne gha eghàlajda kexà.

Zaabè Mackenzie qhdaà nechà-ha najtà hot’ e, ts’ èko hazqò gigha ehkw’ i hòq? -ha gogha eghàlajda eyits’ q ts’ èko edegha gogède-ha nàdahoe who t’ à gots’ q gode jìlè. Eyits’ q ehkw’ i hòq? t’ à kòta k’ àodeè gijì-ha eyits’ q chekoa hoghàgeetq gots’ q gode jìlè. Chekoa enjht’ èkò aaget’ jì ha nìwq t’ à sii nàdahoe who-ne wek’ èhoèdzq hot’ e. Tjìchq yatì eyits’ q dq nàowoò dqne hoghàgeetq -ha sii hòt’ o yek’ e eghàlajda hot’ e.



*“So if children are taught in two cultures equally,
they will be strong like two people...
What the Old Chief talked about is for some good time in the future...
He looked far ahead for us and we gain by it.”*



Born on October 30, 1917, Elizabeth Mackenzie was one of seven children born to Jeremy and Liza Chocolate. She attended school in Fort Resolution for four years until her mother died when she was 14. Elizabeth was raised by her older sister Maria, who taught her many land skills. Elizabeth married Louis Mackenzie at the age of 25 and spent the next 40 years with him, travelling, trapping and hunting in the bush. When her seven children began school, she settled in Rae, where she began to work at the hospital.

While living in Rae, Elizabeth has played an active role in the life of the community. She was active in the church, the Native Women’s Association and as a member of the Rae-Edzo School Society for many years. She is well known for her passion for the education of young people and her dedication to Dogrib language and culture programs.

Elizabeth was one of the founding members of the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education in 1989 and was recognized for her work by the Rae-Edzo School Society in 1991 when the new elementary school in Rae was named in her honour. In 1997, she was awarded the Governor General’s Award for a life of dedication to her community. Elizabeth has been described as a hero who fought for the education of young children in a Dogrib cultural environment. She is a very respected elder who worked for the equal rights of women and men, encouraging women to speak out and take their rightful role in the community as leaders and educators of children.

