



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2010

Yukon New Democrats Pay Tribute to Todd Hardy, former Party Leader and MLA for Whitehorse Centre

Yukon New Democrat Party Leader Liz Hanson today expressed her condolences to the family of Todd Hardy, who died Wednesday morning following a long journey with leukemia.

“Todd was committed to serving the people of Yukon and was passionate in his pursuit of social justice” said Hanson. “Not everyone agreed with the way Todd defined issues, but everyone know where Todd stood – for social justice, community inclusion, the rights of workers, including the right to organize collectively, and for human rights.”

Todd was first diagnosed almost four years ago. He continued to work on behalf of his constituents, and all Yukoners, right up until his untimely death.

During the Spring 2010 legislative sitting, when it was obvious to all that Todd’s illness was causing him great discomfort, he still represented his constituents -- even riding his bicycle to the Legislature to participate in Question Period and active debate. He challenged his colleagues in the Opposition and on the government side to rise above petty partisanship and to act in the best interests of the people of Yukon.

“Todd championed many social democratic causes,” said Hanson. “We often pigeon hole people as *politicians* or other labels. Todd defied labels. My first encounter with him was as a karate teacher for my daughters and I was impressed with how he could bring calm to a room of rowdy kids – and they loved him for it. He was a key player with Habitat for Humanity, and that was just one of his many community contributions over the years.

“This winter Todd and Louise opened their home to the Home Routes Concert series -- music seemed to be a natural part of their home. Todd read eclectically and deeply which made conversations with him a unique and interesting experience. Todd was a special character and certainly qualifies for the Yukon’s colourful five percent.”

“Todd Hardy did not hide from the fact that he had a terminal illness and did he run from it. Terminal leukemia became a part of his life but it did not define his life. Todd Hardy lived his life each day as though it was his last- a lesson for us all. We loved him. We shall remember the lessons he taught us and we shall miss him”.

A funeral service is being coordinated by the Hardy family for Sunday, August 1 beginning at 2 pm at Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre.

For more information contact:

Liz Hanson, YNDP Leader 1867-334-1113