

LITTLE CHIEF (Mid 1800's-1865)

Little Chief was the eldest of six brothers: Big Plume, Eagle Robe, Painted Otter, Little Drum and Bullhead, whom he preceded as pre-treaty chief. Little Chief was killed by Cree in 1865.



CHILA BULLHEAD (1865-1911)

Bullhead succeeded his eldest brother Little Chief. In 1877, he signed Treaty 7 along with his brothers, the Minor Chiefs. He rejected the proposal to settle at Blackfoot Crossing, instead establishing Sarcee Reserve at Fish Creek.

BIG BELLY (1911-1920)

Following Bullhead's passing in 1911, Chief Big Belly succeeded leadership with many accolades. He kept his people, still low in numbers following years of food scarcity and tuberculosis, out of WWI, and inaugurated the Tsuut'ina participation in the Calgary Stampede.



JOSEPH BIG PLUME (1923-1946)

Following three years with no chief, Joe Big Plume, nephew of Bullhead, was the last hereditary chief delegated to serve the Tsuut'ina people. Respected for his wisdom and the authority he carried when he spoke, Big Plume initiated the annual Christmas feast and powwow, an anticipated gathering still celebrated today.



DAVID CROWCHILD (1947-1952)

The first elected chief, Crowchild was known and respected for his penchant for rodeo and advocacy for relations between the Calgary and Tsuut'ina peoples. When the freeway, Crowchild Trail, was named for him, he said, "May this be a symbol of cutting all barriers between all peoples for all times to come."



JAMES STARLIGHT (1952-1966)

In the early 1960's, citing a need to bring the people together, Chief Starlight inaugurated the first Indian Games. He inception open band meetings, held every three months, and advocated medicare for all First Nations with the Federal Government.



RICHARD "DICK" BIG PLUME (1966-1970)

A hereditary descendant of Bullhead, Big Plume served on council for 14 years before being elected chief. He helped establish the Tsuut'ina Cow Camp and was a strong believer in education, transitioning Tsuut'ina students into the Calgary school systems. He oversaw Tsuut'ina authority over jurisdiction transition from Indian Agent to Band Manager, finally to self government.



GORDON CROWCHILD (1970-1976)

Remembered for his vision as a leader and athleticism as a rodeo star, Doni Yisdla "Gun Case" promoted sport and culture as tools for youth. He was a firm believer in economic development, building the first golf course on Nation, and revered as a coach and mentor. "When I leave this world, I'll leave it as a cowboy."



CLIFFORD BIG PLUME (1976-1984, 1986-1988)

Big Plume supported traditional and contemporary initiatives that would benefit all the Tsuut'ina people. He established the cultural centre and museum, re-introduced buffalo and had their paddocks built, and created numerous employment opportunities.



ROY WHITNEY (1984-1986, 1988-2001, 2012-2016, 2019-CURRENT)

Over 11 terms as chief, Roy Whitney championed housing, educational reform, and introduced Canderel Developments, the largest land development on First Nation land in Canada. Upon winning the November, 2019 election he said, "I commit to... work tirelessly, with respect and transparency, to further [Tsuut'ina] interests, to respect the social and natural environment, and promote our language, history and culture."



SANDFORD BIG PLUME (2001-2012)

During his terms as chief, Big Plume concluded the Grey Eagle Casino negotiations with the governments of Alberta and Canada, and was instrumental in the revitalization of the Tsuut'ina language initiative. Through multiple language programs, there is more Tsuut'ina spoken in our community now than there was in the last century.



LEE CROWCHILD (2016-2019)

Third generation chief, following in the steps of his father and grandfather, Crowchild committed himself to increasing interactions between the Tsuut'ina and its neighbour, Calgary. "This land is our history, our culture, our legacy. Tsuut'ina is blessed to have such a large and vibrant city living on our doorstep... We need to work together."

