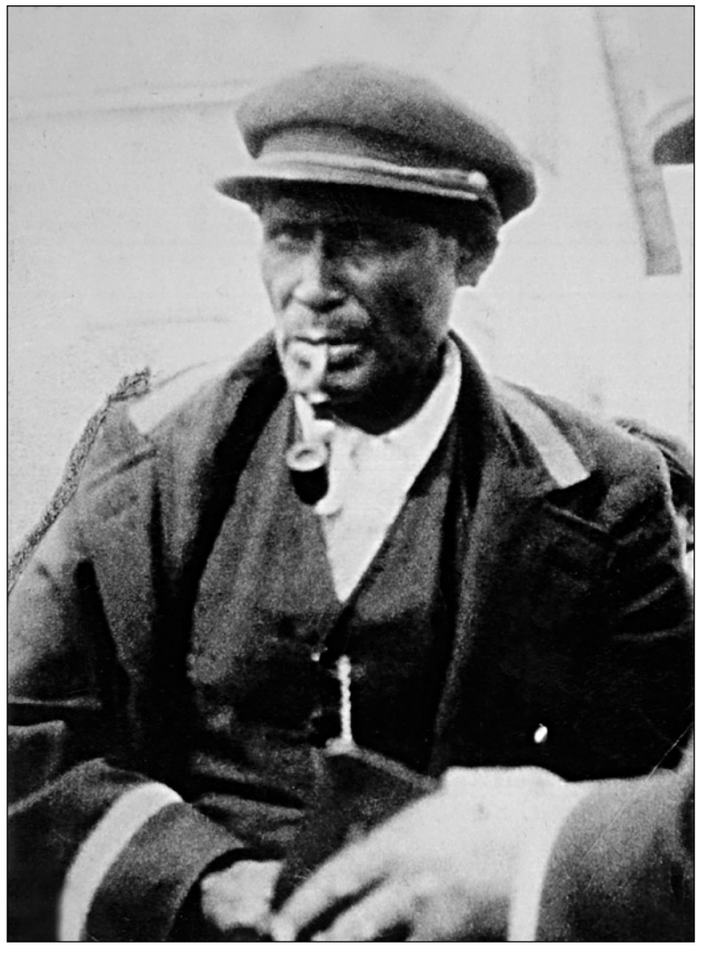
Kw’ahtıdeè Zephırın Mǫnfwı (1866 - 1936)

“Dıı sa naet’a, dehcho nı̨lı̨ı̨ ek’èt’a anajà-le nı̨dè, asìı wǫzìı gogha wets’àèt’ǫ ha-le.”

“Dıı dè gòʔǫ gots’ǫ̀, edàesı̨ı̨ sìı, hanì hòʔǫ ha.”

Tǫts’ì Zaà 21 dzęę, 1866 ekò Mǫnfwì wegǫ̀hłı̨ ı̨lè. Theodore Dzımı̨ eyıts’ǫ Anne Tsekewında gızha hǫt’e. Degaı Maà Dzęę Zaa 07 dzęę, 1897 ekò Ek’aàwı Dzımı̨ tł’àxǫǫ̀ ajà t’à Dechı̨laa got’ı̨ı̨ gha K’àowo ı̨lè. Degaı Maà Dzęę Zaa 1921 ekò, Sǫ̀mba Nàzeè gha K’àowodeè nìitła wekwe, ǫhdàh hazǫǫ̀ Mǫnfwì k’àowo geèhtsı̨ ı̨lè, hazǫǫ̀ gogha gode-ha. Dèts’ǫ K’àowodeè edàanì ghǫ dǫne xè sǫ̀mba nàzeè ha nìwǫ yeghǫ ıìkw’oh tł’àxǫǫ̀, gots’ǫ xàèhtła, sǫ̀mba nàzeè ghǫ gok’èèhoʔà-le. Yahtıdeè yeghǫ nàdaetì t’à, Mǫnfwì eyìì nǫǫ̀tła eyıts’ǫ hadı, “edàesı̨ı̨ sìı sek’èè hogı̨ı̨ʔǫ nı̨dè k’ǫǫ̀t’a sǫǫ̀mba èchı-ha.”

Canada gha Dèts’ǫ K’àowo ts’ǫ̀ Mǫnfwì gogha goı̨de t’à, Tłı̨chǫ dǫne sìı, nàgezè eyıts’ǫ ehdzo agehʔı̨ı̨ gha ndè gı̨hchì, eyìì dè sìı, Mǫnfwì gogha dè nı̨ı̨tł’è wèts’edı hǫt’e. Yahtıkǫ̀ gots’ǫ Decho wek’abàa, Sah tì gots’ǫ nǫǫ̀ Kǫ̀k’etì gots’ǫ, dııdzęę̀ k’e, Łìhtsok’è kǫ̀ gòlaa gots’ǫ chı̨k’eè ts’ǫǫ̀hk’e Tìndeè wek’abàa eyıts’ǫ k’achı̨ Yahtıkǫ̀ gots’ǫ.



Gık’ę̀ę̀ hoı̨ʔǫ̀ hanìwǫ ts’ǫʔò, Mǫnfwì heʔę dıı t’à, Sǫ̀mba Nàzeè nàowoò 11 k’e, Canada gha Dèts’ǫ K’àowo xè ek’ètehtsòo whehtsı̨. Hanìkò edlaètłǫ xoo k’exoı̨wo tł’àxǫǫ̀ , Dèts’ǫ K’àowo sìı, sǫ̀mba nàzeè nàowo eładı̨ı̨ agehʔı̨ı̨ t’à, Mǫnfwì weyatıı wets’à laanì gıghàlaeda ajà. Dııdzęę̀ k’e, Tłı̨chǫ dǫne sìı, Dèts’ǫ K’àowo xè dè ghǫ nàyaetı t’à sìgogeehʔı̨ hǫt’e.

Kw’ahtıdeè Mǫnfwì, Zezì Ełaı̨woo Dzęę̀, k’e 1936 ekò t’à ełaı̨wo ı̨lè, eyıts’ǫ wesah Jımmy Bruneau yetł’àxǫǫ̀ ajà t’à Kw’ahtıdeè whelı̨.

“This sun that rises, if it does not go back on itself, this Great River that flows, if it does not flow back on itself, on this land, we will not be restricted from our way of life.”

“For as long as this land shall last, it will be exactly as I have said.”

Monfwi was born on May 21, 1866, the son of Theodore Dzenithiya and Anne Tsekewinda. He succeeded Ek’awi Dzimi as the K’awo for the Dechi Laot’i (Edge of the Woods People) on August 7, 1897. Before the arrival of the Treaty 11 Commissioner in August of 1921, Monfwi was appointed by the Dogrib leadership to represent them collectively. Upon hearing the federal government version of the Treaty, he walked away, refusing to accept the terms as offered. After some coaxing from the Bishop, Monfwi returned and said that he would accept Treaty only on the terms that he would describe.

Through Monfwi’s representation to the Government of Canada, the Dogrib laid claim to hunting and trapping rights over a territory now called “Monfwi gogha Nde nitle” from Fort Providence along the Mackenzie River to Great Bear Lake and across to Contwoyto Lake to present day Lutsel’ke and along the northern shore of Great Slave Lake back to Fort Providence.

Believing his terms met, Monfwi agreed to sign Treaty 11 with the federal Government of Canada. However, in the years that followed, governments continued to apply their terms of the Treaty in areas that conflict with Monfwi’s words. Today, the Dogrib are negotiating with governments to settle the conflict in the Dogrib Agreement.

Chief Monfwi died on Good Friday in 1936 and was succeeded as Chief by his nephew, Jimmy Bruneau.