

*Tributes*

The member for Calgary West pointed out why that was so. It was because of Chuck's love of learning and his insatiable capacity to read and explore ideas.

When I think of Chuck Cook I also think of his sense of humour, occasionally at my own expense I might add. However, Chuck was always somebody who could enjoy a good joke. He smoked way too much and he was not an advertisement for healthy living. When we would come into caucus or the parliamentary dining room Chuck would always have a big plate of fries in front of him which he would then finish off with eight or nine cigarettes.

I think of Chuck and I see smoke coming out of his nose and mouth but he was full of pleasure and joy, and had an ability to love life.

Another impression of Chuck which I would like to share on this occasion was his enormous pride in his children. He had a daughter whose name is also Kim, who is a lawyer. I remember a couple of years ago at the Prime Minister's dinner in Vancouver, the pride with which he introduced me to his daughter and talked about her aspirations as a young professional. Of course it was a great pleasure for me to encourage her. At that time I was the Minister of Justice.

He had that wonderful air of a father who seriously suspects that his children may have outstripped him in intelligence and that delightful deference that parents have when they look at their children who have launched into wonderful careers.

He was a truly well-rounded human being. Like my colleague, the minister for western diversification, Chuck and I were not ideological soul mates on a lot of issues. However a lot of us realize that what is really important in this life is to have genuine dialogue and a genuine clash of ideas with people who are intelligent and well informed. I do not think any of us want to be surrounded by people who only ever agree with our own positions because those positions can then become flabby and ill-founded.

Chuck Cook was always a very important part of our caucus, and kept us on our toes. As others have said, our hearts go out to his family. We will miss him, because the very bottom line is that Chuck Cook was good company.

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure other colleagues will understand why members of the British Columbia caucus mourn the loss of Chuck Cook so deeply. He was a friend to all in this House.

• (1520)

Some of us knew Chuck Cook very well. As my colleague, the member for Capilano—Howe Sound has said, he could be gruff. Perhaps that is why he was successful as a pioneer in open-line radio. It was perhaps Chuck's manner, but those of us who knew him came to discover that Chuck Cook had a heart of gold. He was always very concerned about each one of us, as our colleagues have indicated, and was always ready to offer a compliment and offer positive and helpful advice.

Chuck came to Ottawa shortly after I arrived here and took an office across the hall from me. I remember the long nights he used to work. There are two things about Chuck Cook that the House should remember. He was a consummate politician but a classic servant of his constituents in the best possible way.

Some people used to wonder how Chuck Cook could be elected and re-elected as often as he was. Those of us who knew him know he did it the old-fashioned way, by wearing out shoe leather door to door. People could not understand how some of the giants, such as Iona Campagnola and Gordon Gibson Jr., could fall to defeat to Chuck Cook, but we knew Chuck Cook. We knew what a dedicated British Columbian, and Albertan by birth, he was.

Something else that the House may not know is that Chuck Cook was—I know his family is very proud of this—the first supporter of our Prime Minister in British Columbia. In 1982 he invited the Prime Minister and Mila to come out to British Columbia where the Prime Minister spoke on the first occasion and won over friends and supporters in British Columbia.

The friend who he won first and to whom the greatest loyalty was shown was Chuck Cook. He was steadfast and dedicated to his party and to this government, and especially to the Prime Minister. For that we will always respect him.