



**JUDY GINGELL**  
KWANLIN DÜN ELDER

An Executive Elder of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Judy Gingell an inspirer of First Nations politics and advocate for economic development.

The eldest of eight children, Judy was born on her grandparents' trapline at Moose Lake, south of Whitehorse, Yukon. For more than 40 years, Judy has promoted and advanced Aboriginal rights and governance in the Yukon. As chair of the Council of Yukon First Nations, she was instrumental in self-governance and land-claims negotiations with the Government of Canada. In 1995, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien named her Commissioner for the Yukon Territory, the first native person appointed to this position. Judy is renowned for her ability to build bridges between peoples, notably by raising awareness of First Nations culture by creating the annual Commissioner's Potlatch, which was endorsed by the Yukon Elders' Council as a happy occasion. As a leader and elder of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, she has ensured that First Nations communities are key players in the territorial economy.

Judy Gingell was awarded a Commissioner of Yukon Public Service Award in 2001, a National Aboriginal Achievement Award – Community Development in 2005, the Order of Canada in 2009, and a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 in recognition of her life-long contributions. She lives in Whitehorse, Yukon

*The necklace celebrates Judy's First Nations' heritage through the use of traditional materials (moose hair tufting, leather, beading, caribou antler) and her strong ties with the Yukon (mastodon ivory, gold nuggets and local stones). The imagery is the magnificent Yukon landscape with the Aurora Borealis in the star-studded night sky.*

Sterling silver, 14K gold, placer gold nuggets, leather, moose hair, wood (pine), glass beads, inlays of Yukon stones, mastodon ivory and caribou antler  
18 x 20 cm