Wayne M. Christian is of Secwepemc ancestry. His Indian name, Wenecwtsin, from his great grandfather, means *Big Voice that Speaks the Truth*.

A proud father of seven children and 27 grandchildren, Kukpi7 (Chief) Christian was elected to Council at the age of 23 and elected as Chief at 25. He has served for over 40 years in leadership, deeply committed to establishing healing and health systems for the Indigenous Nations of BC.

Kukpi7 Christian led two major initiatives in fighting for Indigenous rights; the Indian Child Caravan 1980 and the Constitution Express 1980 and 1981 – fighting for recognition of Indigenous laws and jurisdictions for lands, resources, and people.

His leadership philosophy is based on inclusiveness, spirituality, traditional knowledge rooted in our oral history, and a strong belief that Sovereign land title and rights are governed by our laws, our values, culture, traditions and our connection with all of creation. He believes that the children are our future, and the future is right now.

“Whatever it takes, the time is now. We are the ones we have been waiting for.”