



STATEMENT ON PASSING OF CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE COUNCILMAN
ROBERT BART WARD

AUGUST 5, 2026

It is a sad day for our Tribe. We are experiencing loss and grief with the early and unexpected death yesterday afternoon of our kola, our relative and Councilman, Robert "Bart" Ward. This loss hits especially hard. We send our love, condolences and prayers to his family and friends for this sudden and tragic loss.

Councilman Ward has represented the Fourth District since December 2024. He will be remembered for his dedication and love for the people. One of his last legislative acts was passing a resolution ensuring that the waters of the Mni Sose stay on the reservation for our people's use and the generations to come. Councilman Ward chaired the Roads Committee with dedication and also served as the Vice Chair of the Fair Board. He served on the Cannabis Control Commission and assisted last week with interviewing and hiring a new Executive Director. He was excited about the promise and prospect of the new economic venture of medical and recreational cannabis for the Tribe.

We will miss Councilman Bart Ward's contributions and his voice for the people.

-Chairman Ryman LeBeau