



## REMEMBERING

# William Christopher Watkins (Chris)

May 17, 1955 - February 20, 2026



With deep love and profound sadness, we announce the sudden passing of Chris at his home in Langley, BC on February 20, 2026 at age 70, leaving behind a family who loved him deeply and a community that was better for having known him.

Born in Weston, Ontario to Ruth and Bill Watkins. Chris had a full life while growing up from building minibikes with his Dad to playing football and working at summer camp where he grew in his Christian faith. After finishing school he attended Winnipeg Bible College following which he held various jobs in construction, and as a youth care worker which led him to becoming an industrial arts teacher. Chris obtained his teaching degree at the University of Manitoba, moved to British Columbia and taught on Vancouver Island and in Revelstoke. His career changed when he moved to North Vancouver to work for GD Nielsen Homes and then for Home Depot.

He had recently retired from a decade at Home Depot with grand plans for the months ahead — more golf, more bike rides, and more dinners to share. He was so looking forward to being footloose and fancy-free in his retirement! He never wanted to be the center of attention, though the family will hold his dance moves at their weddings as a core memory.

Chris was a gentle, kind and creative soul. He was a loving man, a faithful friend and a delight in every room he entered. He had a quiet steadiness about him— the man that made people feel at ease, no matter the pun, and always loved whether gathered around the table for family dinners with cheesecake he provided, sharing stories and laughter, or planning his next round of golf, he lived for the simple joys of life.

Chris is lovingly remembered by his sisters, Lynda Watkins, Nancy Friesen (Ron), and his nieces and nephews James Corker (Laura), Steph Corker, Matt Corker (Chad Clark), Cody Friesen (Analea), Luke Friesen (Danae), Mikayla Moorhouse

(Caleb), and Janaya Brown (Josh), all of whom adored him enormously along with his nine great-nephews and great-nieces. His steadfast presence in their lives was a gift and his memory will remain woven into their hearts forever. He will also be missed by his extended Ontario family, and many friends. Chris is pre-deceased by his parents and great niece.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no formal service. The family invites you to celebrate Chris with a round of golf or a delicious meal he would have been delighted to share with you.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Covenant House Vancouver or to Hope and Healing International, two organizations he held dearly.

He will be deeply missed and always remembered. There will always be a seat at the table for him with a slice of pie and cup of hot coffee waiting. As long as the table was full of his favorite people, he would have wanted for nothing more.

