

Chief Kirk Francis

Penobscot Indian Nation

Chief Francis was born and raised at Indian Island, Maine-the home of the Penobscot Nation. He has deep cultural ties to the people, the land, and the river. He is an avid outdoorsman practicing the traditions of hunting and fishing for which his family is well known. From his youth he has also been known for his athletic ability, most notably as a very talented hockey player.

Chief Francis has been the elected Chief at Penobscot Indian Nation for over 8 years and was just reelected to his fourth term. Before becoming Chief he served in many leadership roles within the Penobscot Nation including chairing various committees and serving three terms as a member of the Tribal Council. He was first elected to the Council at 21 years old and when elected Chief he was the second youngest to be elected to this position in the modern era. He now owns the distinction of being the longest serving Chief at Penobscot since the electoral system began in 1850. Chief Francis has focused heavily on Penobscot's economy including helping to lead an effort to secure federal contracting opportunities for the Nation through the creation of Penobscot's 8(a) company. He has also been instrumental in the creation of Penobscot Indian Nation Enterprises (PINE) a Section 17 corporation that now has nine subsidiaries representing multiple economic markets. Chief Francis has become knowledgeable and effective in handling the myriad of issues facing tribal governments today.

Chief Francis graduated from Old Town High School in 1987, and attended the Bridgeton Academy and the University of Southern Maine where he majored in Business Administration.

Beyond his local service, Chief Francis also serves as a national leader on many issues facing Native Americans. He currently is Treasurer of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) an organization comprised of 26 tribal nations east of the Mississippi. Chief Francis also chairs the Natural Resource Committee for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) that serves as the organizations largest committee representing tribes from across America.

Prior to being elected as Chief, Mr. Francis' work experience centered on the gaming industry, including operating his own gaming bussing company, conducting promotional marketing for the Penobscot Nation's High Stakes Bingo, and being a floor manager at the Mohegan Sun Resort and Foxwood Resorts Casino in Connecticut.