

## **Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr.**

Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr. serves as Chairman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa since his election to that position in 2016. In that capacity, he is committed to improving the lives of the Band's 4,200 members and the overall community of 7,300 Indian people who rely on the services that are provided by the Band in the region. In addition to serving as Chairman of the Fond du Lac Band, Mr. Dupuis was, in 2016, also elected to serve as the President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which is comprised of the Fond du Lac Band along with five other Chippewa Bands in Minnesota.

Mr. Dupuis has devoted his life to his people and his country. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years (1982-1990). After completing basic training, he volunteered for Marine Reconnaissance and was first stationed at Camp Talega, Camp Pendleton, CA. Thereafter he served as an instructor for the ship defense force at the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, VA, and later as a reconnaissance instructor at Fort Story, VA and then Camp Lejeune, NC. He also was deployed overseas. As Mr. Dupuis has stated, "I have been given the greatest honor I believe a man can achieve and that is to lead my brothers in arms."

Following his honorable discharge in June of 1990, Mr. Dupuis returned home to the Fond du Lac Reservation where he has been actively involved in the Fond du Lac community and has studied the Band's Treaties with the United States, along with tribal law and the principles of Indian law that affect tribal rights and responsibilities.

In 2002, he ran for and was elected to Tribal office, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Fond du Lac Band for four years (2002-2006). Several years later, he was again elected as a Council member representing the Reservation's Brookston District (2012 to 2016). At other times he has worked for the Band's various business enterprises, as a cement mason and construction foreman, and as part of the security staff for the Band's gaming enterprises. For several years he also worked on an oil rig in North Dakota.

Through all his work, Mr. Dupuis has been guided by the teachings of his Anishinaabe grandfathers: humility (*dabaadendiziwin*), bravery (*aakwa'ode'ewin*), honesty (*gwekwaadziwin*), wisdom (*nibwaakaawin*), respect (*minwaadendamowin*), truth (*debwewin*), and love (*zaagidwin*).