

## **Bio of Chief Kirk Francis**

### **President of United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund**

Chief Francis has been the elected Chief at Penobscot Indian Nation for over 12 years and is in his fourth term. Before becoming Chief, he served in a number of leadership roles within the Penobscot Nation including various committees and three terms as a member of the Tribal Council. He was first elected to the Council at 21 years old. When elected Chief he was the second youngest to be elected to this position in the modern era. Chief Francis has focused heavily on improving the Penobscot Nation economy in many ways, including helping lead an effort to form the Penobscot Federal Contracting Division in the Native 8a program through the Small Business Administration. He has also been instrumental in the creation of Penobscot Indian Nation Enterprises (PINE), a Section 17 corporation, which now has nine subsidiaries representing multiple economic markets including alternative energy development.

Beyond his local service, Chief Francis also serves as a leader nationally on many issues facing American Indians. He currently serves as President of the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF), an organization comprised of 27 federally recognized Tribal Nations from Texas across to Florida and up to Maine. Chief Francis also chairs the Natural Resources Committee for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which serves as the organization's largest committee and represents more than 400 Tribal Nations from across America.