

## **KIRK E. FRANCIS**

### **CHIEF OF THE PENOBSCOT NATION**



Chief Kirk E. Francis is a respected leader of the Penobscot Nation, born and raised on Indian Island, Maine. He has deep cultural ties to the people, the land, and the Penobscot River. An avid outdoorsman, Chief Francis practices the traditions of hunting and fishing, which are well-known in his family.

Chief Francis has been the elected Chief of the Penobscot Nation since 2006 and is currently in his fifth term. Before becoming Chief, he held various leadership roles within the Penobscot Nation, including chairing committees and serving three terms as a member of the Tribal Council. He was first elected to the Council at the age of 21 and is the second youngest to be elected Chief in the modern era. He now owns the distinction of being the longest serving Chief at the Penobscot Nation since the electoral system began in 1950. Chief Francis has become knowledgeable and effective in handling the myriad of issues facing Tribal governments today.

Chief Francis has focused heavily on the Penobscot Nation's economy, helping to secure federal contracting opportunities and creating Penobscot Indian Nation Enterprises (PINE), a Section 17 corporation with multiple subsidiaries. He is also a national leader on many issues facing Native Americans, serving as President of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and previously chairing the Natural Resources Committee for the National Congress of American Indians.

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.