

Chairman Richard Peterson Bio

Chairman Richard Peterson was born and raised on the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation in Northern Wisconsin in 1964 into a commercial fishing family. After graduating from high school in 1982, he joined the U.S. Army where he served overseas in West Germany as a Combat Engineer and also with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY.

After leaving the Army, he moved to California where he graduated from college with a degree in Business.

He then worked for Garrett Aviation/GE Aircraft Engines at LAX for 20 years.

In 2008 he accepted a position at Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) in Hawthorne California.

In 2011, he moved back to Red Cliff so that his daughter could learn his Ojibwe culture and attend his childhood school.

He accepted a position in Red Cliff Tribal Operations and then at the Red Cliff Community Health Center until his election as Red Cliff Tribal Chairman in 2017.

In 2019, he was reelected to his second term as Tribal Chairman