



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

Member Mi'kmaq Communities

Acadia • Annapolis Valley • Bear River • Glooscap • Millbrook
• Paqtnkek • Pictou Landing • Sipekne'katik

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District Chief Roderick Francis

The passing of a District Chief and an Original Founding Father of The CMM.



It is with great sadness that The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq announces a great loss not only to its organization and board but to all Mi'kma'ki- with the passing of long serving district Chief Roderick Francis, of Pictou Landing First Nation.

Chief Roderick Francis or Roddie as he was affectionately known as, was one of the original “Founding Fathers” of the modern Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (the last surviving of the original founders). During his tenure as board member with CMM, Chief Roddie brought a younger perspective to CMM as well as his commitment and traditional connection to Mother Earth.

Born and raised in the Pictou Landing Mi'kmaq Community, Roddie has been an advocate for the protection of Mi'kmaq rights. A well-known fisherman, Roddie can be often seen navigating his boat through the Pictou Harbour and the Northumberland Strait on his way to harvesting lobster.

One of 11 Children born to the late Dennis Francis & Alice (Knockwood), Roddie served as both Chief and Councillor for the Pictou Landing Band. From 1975-1981 Roddie served four consecutive terms as band councillor. In 1985 he was elected to serve his first term as Chief and went on to serve three more consecutive terms before deciding to not re-offer as Chief in 1993. Roddie was elected to serve once again as councillor in 1993, 1999, 2001, 2003. All told, Roddie's political experience spans over four decades and over 25 years of serving his community.

In unity there is strength and in strength there is power, justice and equality for all.



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Chief Roderick Francis was a founding member of the modern Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (the last of the original founders). Prior to his time in politics, he was an avid lobster fisherman where he had more than 50 years of experience, and he was also a bus driver for a period in his families bussing service.

Chief Roderick Francis or Roddie as he became known by became Pictou Landing First Nation's chief in the early 1980s and quickly began his work in ensuring that the best interests of Pictou Landing band members were always his top priority.

Prior to his time as Chief, Roddie worked with the late Chief Raymond Francis and Daniel MacDonald on the Boat Harbour legal claim, without Roddie's strong leadership and tenacity during this period, the lucrative settlement that was managed for the Pictou Landing Band Members would not have materialized.

In 2008, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq bestowed Chief Roddie with the honorary position of District Chief, the position offers Mi'kmaw wisdom and guidance to the CMM through input and ensures that all topics, decisions, programs respect Mi'kmaw culture and reflect realities of Mi'kmaq life.

A family man, Roderick is married to his wife Shirley and together they have three children, Javenny, Holly and Rodderick J'ij.

“Through his position as District Chief for CMM, Chief Roddie has always had the best interests of all Mi'kmaq in his sights. He has been a proven leader, a remarkable gentleman and a great provider for his family. I have had the pleasure to know Roddie for most of my life, we were friends and I always respected his opinion, whether we agreed or not, at our board table. He was humble and through his leadership steered his community though some very difficult waters and picked up where former Chief Raymond Francis left off to see that the Federal Government was held accountable to the creation of Boat Harbour.” Said Dr. Don M. Julien Executive Director of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.

Chief Roddie Francis gave so much of his life, not only to his family, but also to his community, the CMM and to his colleagues, he was very generous with all his contributions to Mi'kma'ki. He will be greatly missed by all of those who had the pleasure to know and love him.

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