

Derek Stephen was born and raised in the community of Kashechewan First Nation IR#67. His first language is Cree and was raised by his grandparents William (Willie) Stephen and Rachel (Maggie) Stephen since he was a child until he left for high school and post-secondary school. He has remained connected to the land and teachings instilled by his grandparents by living off the land as his ancestors did long ago.

Derek Stephen is an owner of Cree-Ative Structures Inc. A First Nation company owned that provides affordable housing, commercial, construction and project management.

Derek is also an owner of Emergency Evacuation Centre. Its mission is to relieve and host communities from annual floods, forest fires and infrastructure failures.

Mr. Derek Stephens was elected as Chief for his First Nation in 2012 for a 3 year term; he was also previously elected into office as Deputy Chief for a 2 years term.

In 2010, he was the Chief Executive Director for Five Nations Energy Inc., a transmission line owned by Five First Nations in Northern Ontario along the James Bay Coast.

Previous to that he held position of Executive Director for Kashechewan First Nation in 2007 and numerous positions within the First Nation. Derek was project manager for numerous projects in the community, such as, infrastructure and building. He also held a position with Amec Americas Ltd. in 2006 during the construction phase of Victor Diamond Mine Site as First Nation Liaison manager.

Mr. Derek Stephen specializes in a wide range of expertise such as administration, managerial, politics, project management and negotiations.

Mr. Stephen was also privileged to have served on many boards representing his community and region in the following boards;

- Five Nations Energy Inc.

- Nishnawbe Aski Police Services

- Payukotayno Hudson and James Bay Family Services

- WAHA Regional Hospital

- Kashechewan Health Services

- Kashechewan Power Authority

- Creewest LP