

The Honourable Dan Christmas

Mr. Christmas has served in various leadership positions in the Mi'kmaw Nation of Nova Scotia. After serving five years as the Band Manager for the Community of Membertou, Mr. Christmas worked for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians for 15 years - the last 10 as its Director. He was actively involved in the recognition and implementation of Mi'kmaw aboriginal and treaty rights in Nova Scotia.

From 1997 to 2016, Mr. Christmas held the position as Senior Advisor with Membertou and had assisted the Chief and Council and its Management Team with the day-to-day operations of the Community of Membertou. Dan also served as elected councilor for Membertou for 18 years.



Mr. Christmas has been active in a number of international, national, provincial and local agencies in a wide range of fields including aboriginal & treaty rights, justice, policing, education, health care, human rights, adult training, business development and the environment.

Mr. Christmas was awarded honorary degrees from Dalhousie University (2005), St. Mary's University (2019), Cape Breton University (2022), Queen's University (2022) and an honorary diploma from the Nova Scotia Community College (2016). In 2008, he was the recipient of the National Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award from the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada.

In December 2016, Mr. Christmas was sworn in as an Independent Senator for Nova Scotia. Senator Christmas is the first Mi'kmaw senator to be appointed to the Senate of Canada. Mr. Christmas retired from the Upper Chamber in 2023.