

## Chris Standing

Chris Standing, a proud Dakota/Nehiyaw member hailing from the Bearty's and Okemasis First Nation with familial roots extending to the Wahpeton Dakota Nation, is a seasoned professional in the realm of Indigenous Tourism. With over 12 years of dedicated involvement in the field, Chris has not only become a stalwart representative of his cultural heritage but has also contributed significantly to the development and promotion of Indigenous tourism initiatives.

Chris embarked on his journey in the industry as a summer student at Dakota Dunes Casino and Indigenous Gaming Regulators, marking the beginning of a career dedicated to showcasing the richness of Indigenous cultures. His academic pursuits reflect his commitment to deepening his understanding, as he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies from the University of Saskatchewan. Complementing this, Chris expanded his knowledge base by attending classes at the First Nations University, the University of Victoria, and the University of Minnesota, focusing on Indigenous Governance, Indigenous Studies, and Dakota Language.

As a pow wow dancer for over 30 years, Chris brings not only skill but a profound connection to tradition and heritage. His multifaceted roles as an Interpretive Guide, Visitor Service Manager, Community Connections Coordinator, and Adventures Coordinator demonstrate his versatility and passion for fostering meaningful connections between visitors and Indigenous experiences.

Wanuskewin has been a significant chapter in Chris's professional journey, where he has accumulated valuable experience and played an instrumental role in the development of Dakota Dunes Adventures at Dakota Dunes Resort. His commitment to the industry extends beyond his workplace, as he actively contributes as a board member of Indigenous Destinations Saskatchewan Inc and Lake Diefenbaker Tourism.

Chris's dedication to promoting Indigenous tourism has been recognized, with a nomination for the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada National Board of Directors. Humbled and honored by this nomination, Chris Standing continues to be a beacon for the cultural richness of his people, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of Indigenous tourism in Canada.

