

Rod Bishop. (1938-1998)

Rod was a Cree-Metis from Green Lake, Saskatchewan, the son of Alexis William Bishop and Isabelle Fraser.¹ Alex was active in the early days of the Metis Association of Saskatchewan and president of the Green Lake Local; he also served on the first school board in Green Lake.

Alex was born at Muskeg Lake, Saskatchewan in 1886; he attended the St. Michael's Indian Residential School in Duck Lake. He worked for the Hudson's Bay Company, hunted trapped and traded furs.

Rod Bishop was a social activist who worked with Jim Brady and Malcolm Norris in reorganizing the Metis Association of Saskatchewan in the 1960s, and was vice-president of the amalgamated (north and south) Metis Society. At the time Joe Amyotte was president of the southern Saskatchewan Metis organization, the Metis Society of Saskatchewan and Rod was president² of the northern group, the Metis Association of Saskatchewan. Thus, in 1967, Joe Amyotte became president of MSS and Rod Bishop became Vice-President. Rod served on its board of directors during the 1970s and 1980s. After leaving MSS AMNSIS in the late 1980s he was elected as mayor of Green Lake. As mayor he played a crucial role in preventing the privatization of the Green Lake government farms. He was the moving force behind the organization of a fisherman's union in northern Saskatchewan and also worked as an opponent of the uranium industry in Saskatchewan.

Rod's brother, Peter Bishop, born in 1940 at Green Lake, worked as a fieldworker with the Metis Nation Saskatchewan from 1973-1977 and was an Area Director for MNS (Southeast) from 1973-1975. He was a school teacher and in 1995 was nominated for teacher of the year. Peter passed away in 2012.

Rod was posthumously awarded the Order of Gabriel Dumont – Gold Medal on December 3, 2005.



¹ Isabelle Fraser was the daughter of Norbert Fraser and Margaret Aubichon, married in 1905. Her sister Exilia Fraser married Louis Fiddler at Meadow Lake.

² Rod took over when Malcolm Norris became too ill to run it.



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