

## BIOGRAPHY

Peter P. Politis

2013

While being the duly elected Mayor of Cochrane, Mr. Politis also operates and manages For Evergreen Innovative Strategies Inc. out of Cochrane, Ontario. He is the Senior Consultant for the company, and has managed a number of senior roles for a wide range of companies for many years.

Mr. Politis has managed Woods Operations and Milling Operations with operating budgets between \$35 million dollars and \$50 million dollars for a number of companies across Canada. Some of his capacities include Woodlands Manager, Mill Manager, Operations Superintendent, General Manager, and Senior Consultant. He has developed forest policy as a participating member of the leading Forest Industry Associations in Ontario. His experience in key roles throughout the Forest Industry over the years provides him with a solid understanding of natural resource industries and their dynamics.

In 1995, Mr. Politis established his own management consulting practice specializing in First Nations natural resource opportunities negotiation and business development. He played a key and active role in the development of some agreements which according to a former National Chief were the leading agreements in the country in terms of bridging the gap of First Nations active participation in natural resource management and economics.

Mr. Politis has played an active and integral role in the development of key negotiating tables in Ontario and Quebec, helping the First Nation community forge past historical barriers toward opportunity and development, beginning the process of growth and building partnerships. Some examples include; In 1999 Mr. Politis assisted the in the negotiation of an agreement worth over one million dollars and settling a long standing physical conflict between a First Nation and the Forest Industry in Quebec; In 2003, he lead a table with this First Nation and Quebec which worked on the next evolution of this agreement; Mr. Politis assisted the in Negotiating a landmark Forestry Agreement worth well over \$150M between a client, Tembec Inc. and Ontario who were embroiled in a physical conflict and years of stressed relations; In 2000 Mr. Politis assisted the in securing another aboriginal land mark agreement with Abitibi Consolidated and OMNR which also saw the planned and committed approach to capacity building and also protected a spiritually sacred area which was about to be clear cut by the Forest Industry; In 2001, Mr. Politis assisted a client in the creation of a negotiating table between themselves, the Weyerhaeuser Company, and the Ministry Of Natural Resources which had been studied by the OMNR as a pilot on how to conduct First Nations forestry negotiations in the future. This table employed a cutting edge interest based approach to relationship building, and had been revered by the OMNR as the leading table in the Province. In their words, "nothing else like it was taking place in Ontario". In 2005, Mr. Politis negotiated a landmark consultation process between a client and Tembec Inc. The revolutionary

process sees the unprecedented requirement of the Company to first secure an endorsement certificate from the Algonquins prior to commencing any operations on their territory.

Mr. Politis continues to develop the subsequent sectoral and sub agreements associated to these and many other arrangements reaching values of \$450 million. As well as being involved in many other negotiations which are helping First Nations make the leap from participants in consultation in natural resources, to active resource managers and successful resource businesses. He has, and continues to, develop and train aboriginal businesses in building competency in areas such as negotiation, business planning, strategic planning, budgeting, financial management, people management, opportunity analysis, operational proficiency, and relationship building.

In 2008, Mr. Politis began pursuing his passion for the redevelopment of Northern Ontario. He expanded his efforts to helping municipalities, government and industry successfully partner with the aboriginal community. He focused the majority of his energy on encouraging municipal development where his flair for innovation helped achieve successes in recreation and socio-economic development, previously considered elusive. In less than two years, he helped the town of Cochrane resurrect its fabled winter carnival to the second largest in Ontario, created a new regional summer festival, brought in the World Under 17 Hockey Challenge, re-energized the community volunteer workforce, and elected Mayor in 2010.

Along with twenty four years experience in working with natural resource industries, Mr. Politis has specialized in aboriginal, government and industrial partnering for seventeen years, holds two post secondary school diplomas in Forestry, while attending some of the most prestigious institutions in the world, including Harvard University, he has completed extensive training in key areas such as negotiations, mediation, people management, business and strategic planning, brainstorming, and risk management. He has been fortunate enough to have sat on both sides of the fence in senior roles, and has subsequently developed both a keen understanding of the nuances which effect industrial and First Nations relations, and a network of key contacts in the natural resource based industry, Federal and Provincial governments, and the First Nation community. His experience, creativity, and innovative approach have played a crucial role in his success of advancing all the projects he's participated in to date.

Nominated for a prestigious Premiers Award as most outstanding college graduate in Ontario for his achievements, as well as being awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for his commitment to Canada, Mr. Politis' accomplishments continue to demonstrate his flair for finding creative and innovative solutions to difficult barriers facing people, industries and governments.