

Keith Napoleon Goulet, M.L.A. (b. 1946)

Keith Napoleon Goulet was born on April 3, 1946 in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. He is a middle child of eleven born to Archie Goulet and Veronique Carrière. His family was involved in fishing, trapping, hunting and tourism. As a Cree Metis, Keith is fluent in the Swampy Cree language. Goulet attended Charlebois School in Cumberland House and Riverside Collegiate in Prince Albert. After attending teacher's college in Ontario, he earned a Bachelor of Education degree in 1974 from the University of Saskatchewan and a Master of Education degree in 1986 from the University of Regina.

Prior to entering provincial politics, Goulet worked as an elementary school teacher, sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan and Cree language consultant. He played a key role in developing the Northern Teacher Education Program, which was designed to have more northern Aboriginal people enter the teaching profession. He was also principal of La Ronge Community College and executive director of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Metis Studies and Applied Research.

Goulet was first elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature in 1986 as a New Democratic Party (NDP) MLA for the Cumberland constituency. He was re-elected in 1991, 1995 and 1999. The first Metis Cabinet Minister in Saskatchewan, Goulet served in the Romanow Cabinet as Provincial Secretary (1992-1993); Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance (1992-1995); Associate Minister of Education (1993); Associate Minister of Education, Training and Employment (1993-1995); Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Computer Utility Corporation (1995); Minister of Northern Affairs (1995-2001); and Minister Responsible for the Office of Northern Affairs (1995-2001). He was the first Aboriginal Cabinet Minister to use his language in the Saskatchewan Legislature. Goulet retired from Cabinet on October 12, 2001 and vacated his seat in the Legislature in 2003. Goulet currently (2006) resides in Regina. After leaving politics Kieth began work on his Ph. D. in Education. Goulet married Linda May Hemingway on August 31, 1974. They have two children: Koonu and Danis.

His most recent publication is “Animate and Inanimate: The Cree Nehinuw View.” In Alison K. Brown (Ed.), *Material Histories: Proceedings of a Workshop Held at Marischal Museum*. Aberdeen: University of Aberdeen, 2008: 7-19.

Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell and Brenda Goulet¹ for Louis Riel Institute



¹ Brenda Goulet is Kieth's sister.

