

## **Gerald Cunningham.**

Gerald was born and raised on the Peavine Métis Settlement and later moved to the East Prairie Métis Settlement. He is a descendant of Samuel Cunningham.<sup>1</sup> Gerald married Lorraine LaRiviere in 1976 and they have three children: Jerry, Tara, and Jarrod. Jerry completed four years of University in Minnesota and later played two years of professional hockey for the Wichita Thunder in the United States; Tara, completed 3 years of university in Edmonton; and Jarrod, is enrolled in NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology). As well as raising their own children, Gerald and Lorraine have opened up their home to children that are in foster care. To date, a total of 27 children have lived with them from time to time. Gerald has vast work experience in the lumber industry, in the oil field, and in childcare.

From 1990-2001, Gerald worked with the Métis Settlements in areas such as fire protection, disaster services, occupational health and safety, community and business planning. He was elected as the Métis Settlements General Council Vice-President in September 2001 and served in that capacity until November 2007, at which time he was elected as President. During his three terms as Vice-President, Gerald's portfolio had the responsibility of Land and Resources, Oil and Gas, Infrastructure, Business Planning, Fire Protection, Environment and Wildlife Management.

The President of the Métis Settlements General Council is the political representative for carrying out the decisions and legislated duties of the General Council. His portfolio consists of establishing and maintaining government relationships and ensures that progress is made on behalf of the Métis Settlements as well as carrying out the decisions and legislated duties of the General Council. He looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead and moving the Alberta Métis Settlements a step closer to achieving their goals of self-reliance and self-determination.



Compiled and edited by Lawrence Barkwell  
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research  
Louis Riel Institute.

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Cunningham was born April 08, 1848 in Lac Ste Anne, in the North West Territories (Alberta). He was interpreter for the Cree during the Treaty 8 negotiations, a member of the NWT council and was the first mayor of Grouard. He married (1) Suzanne Gray November 22, 1869 in St. Albert, the daughter of John Gray and Suzanne Callihoo. She was born March 01, 1855 in Lac Ste Anne, in the North West Territories (Alberta), and died circa 1897 in Lesser Slave Lake. He married (2) Betsy Catherine Courteoreille *dit* Willier November 07, 1898 in Lesser Slave Lake Mission. She was born March 13, 1875 in Lesser Slave Lake District.