



School of
Public Policy



SEAN WILLY

President & CEO
Des Nedhe Group



Sean Willy is the CEO of Des Nedhe Group, the economic development corporation of English River First Nation. Since taking over the role Sean, a member of the Deninu Kue First Nation in the NWT, has taken Des Nedhe to a national and international stage, growing & diversifying into new business sectors and regions all while maintaining high levels of Indigenous employment. In March 2026 Des Nedhe was awarded the Skookum Jim award from the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada for leading edge Indigenous support for the Saskatchewan resource industry.

In his career, Sean has developed & implemented the most innovative Indigenous Inclusion, ESG and Socially Responsible strategies for resource companies such as Rio Tinto and Cameco Corporation. He has championed Indigenous peoples to be seen as a full partner in long-term relationships value added relationships.



Sean is a board member for TELUS Corporation and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Sean has also been past Co-Chair of the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business (CCIB), the Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan and has previously sat on the Canadian government's Indigenous Innovation Housing Committee and the Indigenous Advisory Committee on Small Module Reactors. Sean is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, holds his ICD designation. He was honored with the King Charles III Coronation Medal in 2024, and in 2026 was awarded the CCIB's Lifetime Achievement Award for his progressive strategies and support of Indigenous businesses.

Sean has two children and lives with his wife, Melissa, in Saskatoon.

