

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Kevin Chief

Growing up in Winnipeg's North End, Kevin Chief quickly learned to spot people who could see potential where others might only see hardship.

They were everyday people, including teachers, coaches, business owners and other mentors who helped him learn to believe that no matter who you are or where you come from, there are always opportunities to give back.

After attending Strathcona Elementary School, Kevin found that his talent for basketball gave him a sense of generosity in his neighbourhood, playing for Isaac Newton Jr. High and Tec Voc High School. It also opened opportunities for further education when he played for the University of Winnipeg Wesmen as a two-time all star athlete and graduated with a Bachelor Degree majoring in Justice.

Before entering politics, Kevin spent a decade working in education as Coordinator of the Innovative Learning Centre at the University of Winnipeg, Director of the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre and Community Networker with the River East Transcona School Division. He was appointed Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities in 2012, Minister responsible for the City of Winnipeg in 2013, and currently serves as Jobs and the Economy Minister.

He is always looking to learn from the experience and ideas of people who have overcome hardship and adversity and want to help others do the same. Kevin, his wife Melanie and their two sons Hayden and Kellan live in the North End, where he is the MLA for Point Douglas and a high-steppin' square dancer.