

# Maurice Switzer, Bnesi

Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Muskrat & Wolf Clans,  
Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation



Commissioner Maurice Switzer has served as an appointee to the Ontario Human Rights Commission since July 2016 and is the principal of Nimkii Communications, a public education practice which focuses on the treaty relationship between First Nations and the Canadian government. His 2011 graphic novel "We are all Treaty People" is in the libraries of schools across Ontario. Maurice Switzer is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation, where his grandfather Moses Marsden was Chief from 1905-1909. He is Wazhashk (Muskrat) Dodem Anishinabek, and Okwaho (Wolf) Clan Haudenosaunee, passed down from his great-grandmother Esther Hill from Tyendinaga. He also is proud of his Jewish ancestry. He has served as director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians after filling the same role with the Assembly of First Nations. He was a member of the inaugural class at Trent University, where he was the first Indigenous student, and has been a faculty member at First Nations Technical Institute, Huntington University, Canadore College, the Banff Centre's Aboriginal Leadership program, and currently, the University of Sudbury. Maurice was also the first Indigenous publisher of a daily newspaper in Canada. His public education activities include presentations on Treaties and Wampum Belts for students, educators, and government employees. Maurice was inducted into the Nipissing District Human Rights Hall of Fame in 2003 and in 2010 named a recipient of an Anishinabek Nation Lifetime Achievement Award.