ROB NORRIS

Born in Edmonton, raised in Red Deer, Rob completed his undergraduate studies at Red Deer Polytechnic and the University of Lethbridge, where he graduated with distinction in Political Science. Rob went on to earn a Master's degree in Political Science - with a focus on Canadian Foreign Policy - from the University of Alberta.

Rob began working at BHL Lumber in Sylvan Lake when he was 14 years old. From driving forklifts, his early professional life went on to include stints as a private in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves, a journalist, a teaching assistant at the University of Lethbridge, running a coring unit on highway construction projects, teaching Canadian Government at SaskPoly and serving as a Legislative Assistant (focusing on Canadian Foreign Policy) in the Canadian House of Commons.

Starting his career at the University of Saskatchewan, in 1999, he joined the UofS International and by 2004 was the Coordinator of Global Relations within the senior administration of the University of Saskatchewan.

In 2007, Rob was elected to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, representing the constituency of Saskatoon Greystone. He was re-elected in 2011. During his time in the Legislature during the premiership of Brad Wall, Rob served in executive government as: the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment, Labour, Immigration, Innovation, SaskPower as well as the Legislative Secretary for First Nations and Metis Peoples.

In 2016, Rob returned to the University of Saskatchewan as a Senior Strategist within the Office of the Vice-President Research. For the last 3 years, Rob was seconded to the Canadian Light Source synchrotron as the Senior Government Relations Officer.

Rob retired from the University of Saskatchewan this Spring.

At present, he serves as a special advisor to DEEP energy company, Canada's premier geothermal energy company as well as a special advisor to the President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, focusing on innovation. He also serves on Nutrien's community advisory board. He also recently completed a 6-year tenure as the Chair of Canada World Youth as well as 3-year appointment as Bangladesh's Hon. Consul to Saskatchewan.

Over his career, Rob had the privilege of representing Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan in numerous jurisdictions: the United States, Cuba, Argentina, Ireland, Great Britain, Germany, Ethiopia, Malawi, Jordan, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, China, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, among others. He has also served as an election observer in Tunisia and Lebanon.

His hobbies include travel and writing. His daughter lives on Canada's West Coast.