

Calvin Francis, Indian Island

TRIBAL AFFILIATION

Penobscot Indian Nation

FDDC ASSISTANCE

Residential Purchase Loan

Driving over the bridge from the mainland to Indian Island, the Penobscot reservation, you're greeted by a large wooden teepee painted red and white beside a house. The unusual structure, which served for decades as a novelty shop called Princess Watahwaso's Teepee, was owned by Charles Shay, a revered Penobscot elder and decorated veteran. Charles always said, "This home is the first impression and the last impression you see when you come and go from the island."

Over the years, Charles had worked on repurposing the teepee with Calvin Francis, a Penobscot artist, who painted murals of Shay's ancestors with Maine animals and scenery on the building's interior.

By 2019, Charles had retired to France, and he approached Calvin to buy the house with the iconic teepee. Honored to be chosen to steward the property, Calvin turned to Four Directions for help financing the purchase. Calvin had borrowed from Four Directions in the past, and knew he could count on their patience and know-how with an unconventional transaction. The process was longer than expected as different rules applied for the international sale, but, with the superior guidance of Gateway Title of Maine, Four Directions closed the loan and put the landmark into good hands. According to Calvin, "Without the help of Four Directions, I wouldn't have been able to own the home that means so much to me."



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