

Peter Drenth, Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Peter Drenth (1968) has been a regional minister in the province of Gelderland since 2018. Gelderland is the largest province of the Netherlands and has over 2 million inhabitants.

As regional minister he is responsible for Heritage, Culture, Freedom, Defense, Recreation, Tourism, *Veluwe* Programme, Foodvalley, Vital holiday parks, General administration, HR, Strong governance, Lobby coordination. His commitment to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities clearly has connections with *Strong Governance*, which aims to support and strengthen local authorities in the province. It also touches on *Freedom*.

From 17 September 1944 to 5 May 1945, Gelderland was at the frontline of the Second World War in the Netherlands (operation Market Garden, among others the allied defeat in Arnhem, the capital of Gelderland, A bridge too far). The province holds a strong commitment to commemorate the war and celebrate of living in freedom in Gelderland (Home - Gelderland Remembers). For Peter it is important to honour veterans and celebrate freedom: "*Freedom is not self-evident, we must continue to work together for it*."



18-01-2025: Regional minister Peter Drenth lays a wreath at the monument in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

"*As a child I wanted to be all kinds of things. Of course a firefighter, but also a pastor and a shopkeeper. I always wanted to do something with people anyway. Eventually I became a teacher and later a planner and alderman, regional minister*." Before becoming a regional minister, he was an alderman in the municipality of Doetinchem from 2006 to 2018 and an alderman in the municipality of Zeewolde from 2002 to 2006.