

President David Chartrand, LL.D. (hons)

David Chartrand was born and raised in the small Métis community of Duck Bay, Manitoba, the son of Martha Chartrand.

David is the fourth child in a family of eight and was raised by his single mother who instilled a strong sense of the traditional values of family and community. These values have shaped his belief in family as the bedrock of the Métis Nation and in people as the cornerstone of the Manitoba Métis Federation. David is the proud father of Sonya and Christopher. Together with wife Glorian, they are proud grandparents to Trayden, Isaiah, Martha and Ronald. David's first language is Saulteaux.

David Chartrand has been an exemplary Métis citizen committed to public service and the development of the Métis Nation. He has humbly served the Manitoba Métis and indeed the Métis people throughout the Métis Nation Homeland for over twenty years.

Following a career in both private and public sector management, David worked extensively in the field of Justice for over 10 years. In 1988 David was elected to the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Board of Directors representing the Winnipeg Region, and was re-elected four successive times. He was appointed Acting President in 1996 and in 1997 was elected to the office of MMF President. The Metis people's confidence in his leadership has resulted in his re-election to an unprecedented fifth consecutive term, making him the longest serving President of the MMF.

While holding the office of President, David has brought a new level of recognition of the Manitoba Métis at the Provincial and Federal level. Building his staff from 7 in 1996 to over 750 today, David and his team have established various programs and services for the advancement of the Métis people.

His leadership and sacrifice has led to the resurgence of the Nation. Under his administration, the Federation's credibility, stability, strength and membership have steadily increased, with approximately 2,000 Métis participants now attending the Federation's Annual General Assembly.

David Chartrand has relentlessly championed the Métis cause and the recognition of Métis Land Claims and harvesting rights. Under his leadership, the Métis Nation in Manitoba has seen tremendous growth in self-government capacity, programs and services. On the national stage, President Chartrand is actively engaged in the fight for Métis rights and in pursuing the goal of a strong relationship with the federal government. He is also Vice President of the Métis National Council and holds many key portfolios nationally, such as Minister Responsible for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

David believes strongly in economic self-sufficiency for the Métis Nation. He has laid great emphasis on value creation through the purchasing power of Métis individuals, communities and their government. He has developed a procurement policy for the MMF to the benefit of Métis suppliers of goods and services. Another innovation is the Métis Affinity Program which rewards Métis consumers with discounts on their purchases in affiliated stores, and also generates revenues for the MMF. He has also directed the establishment of the Métis Economic Development Organization which will manage a number of venture capital funds providing equity capital to the Métis business community.

It is his respect for the Métis People and his commitment to family and community that provides the foundation for his service and community development work. As a leader and role model, his accomplishments have benefited not only the Métis Nation of Canada, but also all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

David has received numerous awards and recognition, but believes nothing is more rewarding than the advancement of his people and the respect they bestow upon him.