

Albert J. G. Chartrand. (1929-2004)

Al was born and raised in The Pas, Manitoba, the son of Rene Chartrand and Helen Travis. His grandfather was Gaspard Chartrand (1876-1952), a well-known fur trader and fisherman. After completing his schooling at The Pas and Portage la Prairie Al joined the Canadian Armed Forces. He served for 25 years in locations across Canada as well as Korea, England, Egypt, Cypress and Germany. However, it is as a pioneer in developing services for Aboriginal Offenders that Al Chartrand will be best remembered. His brother Ted Chartrand from The Pas is a respected Elder with Manitoba Metis Federation and sits on the elder's advisory group for University College of the North.

In 1971 Al left the armed services and joined the Manitoba Metis Federation as Director of Education. He was subsequently appointed to the Minister of Education's Advisory Committee as well as the Frontier School Division No. 48 Advisory Committee and the Brandon University IMPACTE program committee. At the same time he became active with the Indian-Metis Brotherhood Organization at Stony Mountain Penitentiary. This motivated him to start the Native Clan Organization (1973) which provided a halfway house for inmates as well as liaison counselors for the institutions. Subsequently he started Project Neecheewam (a juvenile correctional facility), Forensic Behavioural Management (for sexual offenders), Project for Industrial Native Training and Project Rene (both employment programs). Al was also a member of the Royal Commission on Sentencing Reform in Canada.

In the mid-70s Al took on the job of Chief Court Communicator of the Province of Manitoba. He retired from this position in 1990¹ and then accepted an appointment to the National Patole Board of Canada and served for three years in the Prairie Region.

Al Chartrand was an avid outdoorsman and hunter as well as an excellent wood carver, specializing in birds and animals.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute

¹ He was succeeded by David N. Chartrand the current President of Manitoba Metis Federation.