

**David N. Chartrand, O.M., LL.D. (Hons.)** (b. Jan. 23, 1960)

David Chartrand was inducted into the Order of Manitoba on July 15, 2013. David received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Winnipeg at the Ninety-Seventh Convocation of the university on October 21, 2012. In 2012 he also received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Hon. Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M., Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

David Chartrand is a descendant of the *Saulteaux-Métis* followers of Chief *Ow-tah-pee-ka-kaw* (“He Who Unlocks” or “The Key”). He is the great-great-grandson of *Sophie Genaille* (*Chenaille*) who was a member of this band.<sup>1</sup> She married William Chartrand, a member of the Duck Bay Band in 1873 about two years before the Shoal River Band signed Treaty Four.

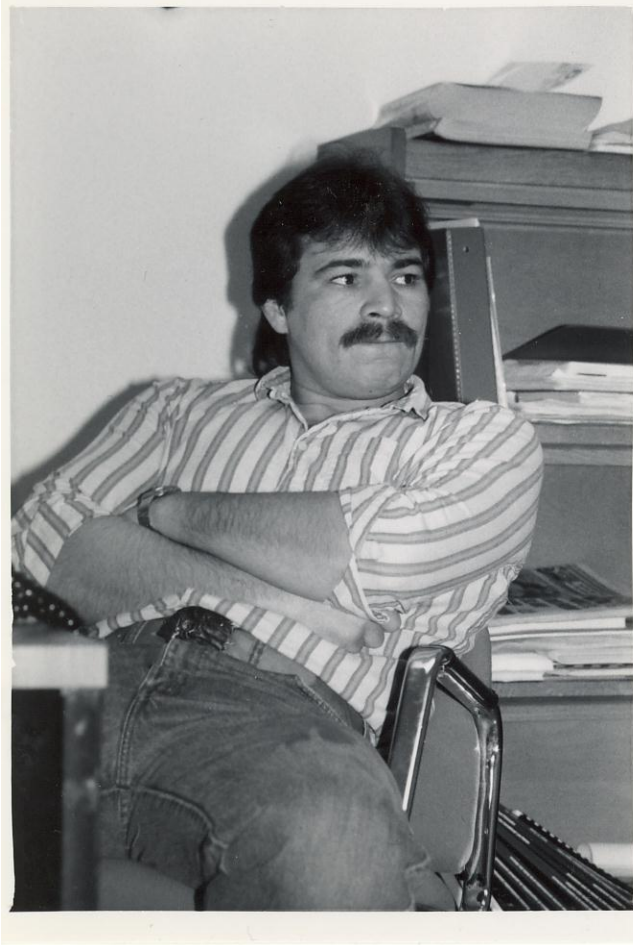
David was born and raised in the small *Métis* community of Duck Bay, Manitoba; the son of Martha Chartrand. David is the fourth child in a family of eight and was raised by a single mother who instilled a strong sense of family commitment in all of her children and grandchildren. For many years David was estranged from his father, the late Nelson Lamirande, however they had reconciled over the last years of his life at David’s initiative. As a young man David hunted and fished to contribute to the well being of his family. The traditional values of his community played a major role in his belief that people are the cornerstone of the Manitoba *Métis* Federation. David’s first language is *Saulteaux*. David was preceded in *Métis* politics by his older brother Elbert Chartrand. Elbert is the executive director of the Swan River Indian and *Métis* Friendship Centre and currently serves as MMF Vice President from Northwest *Métis* Council region.

David was first elected to the Manitoba *Métis* Federation Board of Directors, from the Winnipeg Region in 1988, and was re-elected four successive times to that position. In 1997, he was elected to the presidency and is now serving his fifth term<sup>2</sup> as President of the Manitoba *Métis* Federation. He is on leave from his position as Executive Director of the Manitoba Aboriginal Courtworker Program (appointed January 1990). Before that appointment, he worked as a Probation Officer (1985-1990). During that time he completed his post-secondary education with the Manitoba New Careers Program. From 1981 to 1985 David was manager of the Manor Hotel in Winnipeg; from 1979 to 1981 he was Recreation and Community Action Coordinator for the Winnipeg Indian Council.

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<sup>1</sup> The Key First Nation – Most of the followers of Chief *Ow-tah-pee-ka-kaw* (“He Who Unlocks” or “The Key”) were residing along the Shoal River in western Manitoba in the mid-1800s. The Shoal River drains Swan Lake into Dawson Bay, at the northwest extremity of Lake Winnipegosis. The band included *Saulteaux*, *Saulteaux-Cree*, and *Saulteaux-Orkney Métis* individuals when The Key signed adhesion to Treaty 4 September 24, 1875.

<sup>2</sup> Re-elected on June 10, 2010.



David in his early years as a Probation Officer, photograph by Lawrence Barkwell c. 1985.

David Chartrand has always been involved in community organizations. He has held numerous volunteer positions including, Vice-President of the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg, President - Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, President of the National Association of Friendship Centres and, a founding director and President of Beat the Street, an adult literacy program in Winnipeg. He has served on the board of the Northern Justice Society (Simon Fraser University) and as President of MMF serves on the Board of Governors of the Métis National Council. He represented the Métis Nation internationally at several Ambassador Forums in Canada and in Peru during a Team Canada trade mission.

David has also been recognized for his community work and has received the “Golden Eagle Award” from the Indigenous Women’s Collective, the Eagle Feather from the Friendship Centres of Ontario, and his picture has been placed on the Honour “Wall of Fame” at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg. In November 2002, Peter Liba, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba awarded David a Golden Jubilee Medal, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Her Majesty’s reign. This medal, awarded at a ceremony held in Winnipeg recognized his outstanding contributions to fellow citizens,

the community and to Canada. Throughout his service as President of MMF David has been a staunch supporter of “Winnipeg Christmas Cheer Board” and the MMF has held Christmas concerts as annual fundraisers for the Christmas hamper program.



David has been a contributing writer to several journal articles appearing in the *Canadian Journal of Native Studies* and has contributed to the books, *Struggle for Recognition: Canadian Justice and the Métis Nation* (Pemmican Publications, 1991), and *Past Reflects the Present: The Métis Elders' Conference* (Manitoba Métis Federation, 1997). In 1996 he was asked to address the international Winter Cities group at the Winnipeg Winter Cities '96 Conference where he presented a paper entitled “Sustainable Housing.”

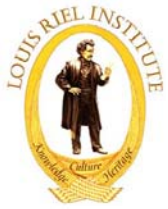
As Métis National; Council minister for Veteran's Affairs, David was able to negotiate a memorial to Métis Veterans who had fought in Europe. On November 11, 2009 a memorial to the thousands of Métis Nation citizens who served in the World Wars was dedicated at the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France. A delegation of Métis Nation veterans, youth and dignitaries joined Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council (MNC), David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Métis Federation and MNC Minister for Veterans Affairs, and the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians for the dedication ceremony.

David is married to Métis businesswoman Glorian Yakiwchuk. Glorian is originally from Cranberry Portage, Manitoba. During the 1990s Glorian was very active with Métis National Council – Métis Youth.

#### References

Barkwell, Lawrence J. “David Chartrand” in *Métis History Through Biography*. Winnipeg: Louis Riel Institute, 2008.

Barkwell, Lawrence J. "David Chartrand" on The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture, Saskatoon, Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2009. [www.Métismuseum.ca](http://www.Métismuseum.ca)



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