



Le Métis  
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I recently had the opportunity to lead a delegation of Red River Métis to Los Angeles, California to meet with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership. Our goal was to explore potential partnerships and agreements that would foster economic well-being in our Nation, as well as benefitting U.S.-based Indigenous Nations and allies.

It's important to remember that Government-to-Government and Nation-to-Nation relationships are not confined to our dynamic with the federal, provincial, or municipal governments where we live. This approach can be applied to governments and Indigenous Nations from across the globe, which helps us foster true equality and generate opportunities for trade and partnership – this freedom to act as a sovereign Nation on the international stage is at the heart of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.

#### Meetings with allies and officials

One of our very first meetings was with the Canadian Consul General in Los Angeles. Our initial meeting was with Consul General Zaib Shaikh, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner Thierry Weissenburger, and Consul and Trade Commissioner Jérôme Pischella. This was an initial discussion to discuss their ongoing support of our Indigenous inter-nation and international trade activities and how we can promote the trade commission to Red River Métis-owned businesses.

Then we became the very first Indigenous Nation from Canada to be officially recognized by the Los Angeles City Council. It was an honour to be welcomed by the city, and I thank Mitch O'Farrell, the first Indigenous Los Angeles City Councilmember, along with Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Council President Nury Martinez, and the rest of the Los Angeles City Council for their precedent-setting recognition.

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and I also found common ground in our shared concern about the long-term health outcomes for Indigenous peoples, as we both know that these health outcomes are typically poorer than the general population. I believe there will be room to have further discussions with him and with the City of Los Angeles about the potential to share health studies, new practices, and other advancements that can help our Citizens.

Along with the official welcome from the City of Los Angeles, we also conducted introductory meetings with Santa Monica Councilmember Oscar de la Torre, where we found common interests in civic safety, homelessness, and our passion for community.

We also met with Hollywood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David Jerome and Vice-President of Membership Lex Pavlovic, where we provided an overview of our delegation's purpose in the city and explored opportunities for Red River Métis involvement in the entertainment industry.

#### Renewing relationships with Indigenous Nations

One of the most significant parts of our trip were our meetings with Indigenous Nations. We were welcomed by Fernandño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, represented by Tribal President Rudy Ortega and Vice-President Mark Villaseñor. We also had an introductory meeting with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Canadians sometimes forget that our Nation existed at a time where there were no borders between us and our Indigenous neighbours to the south. Nation-to-Nation connections like the ones with the Cahuilla and the Fernandño Tataviam are not new – they are, in fact, a renewal of the kinds of relationships we had before Canada and the United States became what they are today. In many ways, rekindling these relationships to discuss partnership, economic development, and trade is coming full circle, back to our roots and history.

When meeting with our Native American neighbours, it is easy to see this shared history in the way we relate to each other. Humour, recognition of kinship, and the principle of sharing what we have to our mutual benefit – these are cultural foundations that are shared across nearly every Indigenous Nation I have ever had the privilege to meet with. I look forward to continuing our dialogue in the future.

#### Creating new pathways

Reconciliation is more than just acknowledging past wrongs; it's about advancing our Nations and working together to create opportunities that better our peoples. As Citizens know, the Red River Métis have always been an economically-minded Nation,

and we have been experiencing great success in building toward our resurgence as economic leaders across a variety of sectors. Know that your Red River Métis Government will continue to expand our relationships across the globe and advance reconciliation by all means, including economic.

Your Red River Métis Government will never shy away from breaking new ground as we advance our Nation's agenda both nationally and internationally, confident in our rights, both because of UNDRIP and the self-government recognition agreement we signed with Canada in 2021.

You could say it is in our blood – after all, our ancestors were independent thinkers, innovators, and creators. We exist as a Nation because of their ways of being. It is our inheritance and our obligation to those who came before us to forge our own path forward in the modern day, leaving a trail that others can choose to follow. The revival of our Nation is in full swing!

Until we meet again, I offer my prayers to all our Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand. LL.D. hon. O.M. ∞



# Youth and Elders share knowledge at annual conference

The Manitoba Métis Federation hosted its annual Youth and Elders Conference on August 27 and 28, 2022.

The conference had not taken place since 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lydia Gork, a representative of the Winnipeg Regional Youth Advisory Committee, was excited to attend the conference because she wanted to get involved and support other Youth.

“I realized how badly we need to get our Youth and Elders together more (often). As a Youth representative, I was sitting down a lot with the Elders and hearing their stories, and I realized how much they had to share from all their experiences,” she said. “Each community has such different histories and ways of knowing. I felt it was important for us all to come together, not just regionally, but to be here all together.”

The two-day conference happened in Selkirk at the Memorial Hall and Selkirk Park. President David Chartrand, Minister Alfred Anderson, Vice-President of the Interlake Region, and Richard Genaille, Minister of Sports & Youth, were on-hand to provide greetings. Selkirk MLA Alan Lagimodiere, Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, also spoke, along with Selkirk Mayor Larry Johansson and Manitoba Liberal leader Dougald Lamont.

Minister Julyda Lagimodiere was a conference participant and explained what the event meant to her.

“I wanted to be with Elders, and I wanted to be with the Knowledge Keepers. I learned so much from everyone. Every time they spoke, I learned something, and I loved it. So, it was a great learning opportunity.”

Sixties Scoop Survivor Albert Beck, Director of ‘60s Scoop and Residential Schools for the MMF, provided the keynote speech. He shared his life story and touched on the importance of connecting with the Métis Community.

Gork said she was one of many in the room captivated by his speech and gained knowledge from it.

“The Child and Family Services system still exists today. After hearing his speech, I saw the connection between those survivors and our Youth in Child and Family Services today,” she said. “I realized how important those stories are for our Youth to hear. Because, to hear that our Elders have been through similar things makes us feel like we’re not alone, and we have our community to support us. To be in relation with our Elders and to hear their stories, we not only learn from their experiences, but we also feel more connected with our Nation and our communities ourselves.”

With a theme of Sharing Our Knowledge, the conference focused on passing down Red River Métis traditions from the Elders to Youth. The event hosted Together Stations, so participants could gain valuable knowledge on cooking and canning, sewing and beading, harvesting, and medicine walks.

“You can never hear enough from our Elders, from our Knowledge Keepers, and I worry so much that they’re going to be gone before we’ve captured every tidbit of information,” said Minister Lagimodiere. “They have so much information, and it’s so valuable. You can only hope for the best when you’re doing something like this, and I think it’s a good job.”

Attendees were treated to a walleye fish fry, tea and bannock, a Youth hot dog and marshmallow roast, a wrap-up barbeque, a tour of Lower Fort Garry, and performances from the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers, Jason Lepine, and Minoosh, a Michif play.

A highlight for Gork had been seeing the joy on everyone’s faces.

“Seeing the Elders so happy, laughing, and sharing their stories,” she said. “The fact that our Elders are so comfortable opening up with us and sharing their stories with us, which gives me so much hope for our generation that we’re going to be able to carry on those stories and lead our Nation the way that our Elders want it.”



The Norman Chief Memorial Dancers perform for participants of the Youth and Elders Conference.



Lydia Gork was one of the participants at this year’s Youth and Elder Conference.



Minister Julyda Lagimodiere and granddaughter Chrissy work on some beading at the Youth and Elder Conference.



Attendees of the conference take part in a Together Station.



On the last day of the conference, Elders and Youth received a tour of Lower Fort Garry.



# Red River Métis Youth making waves in the wrestling world

A Métis athlete based out of St. Laurent has been making an impact in the wrestling world.

Fifteen-year-old Anaka Chartrand recently competed at the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ontario and placed third.

The Métis Youth got her start in wrestling when she was 12 years old.

“I started wrestling to improve my Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Then, I eventually fell in love with the sport,” she said.

Chartrand competed in the up to 60-kg Female class and came away with a bronze medal. She said it was amazing to attend the 2022 games.

“It was something I’ve never felt before, just because it was such a huge event. It was a good experience.”

During the games, Chartrand was defeated in the semi-final by eventual gold medallist Gabriela Cross of British Columbia, before defeating Saskatchewan’s Caitlin Clatney to win the bronze medal.

“I had some good competition. Most of the girls were up to four years older than me,” Chartrand said. “It was cool knowing that I could go against older girls with probably more experience. That makes me feel good about myself, and I feel confident.”

The multi-sport athlete is no stranger to wrestling competitions and has quite the list of accolades at such a young age.

“I recently won (the Canadian 2022) Nationals, and I got bronze at the Canadian Team Trials. I’ve won provincials twice, and I also received most outstanding wrestler there,” she said. “I compete in other provinces like Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. I also went to the Western Canada Games and got silver in 2019.”

Chartrand trains with the Schewa Wrestling Club based out of Winnipeg, as well as in her St. Laurent garage because of the travel distance. She said she’s impressed with herself and her tenacity towards the sport.

“When I win, it just feels so good because I know that the work has been put in, and I’ve worked towards that,” said Chartrand.

While balancing going to school, Chartrand’s next big event will be competing in the North American Indigenous Games tryouts this October, where she will try to vie for a spot at the 2023 games in Nova Scotia.

The Manitoba Métis Federation has played an integral role in the young star’s career, which she is grateful for.

“They helped me pay for my club registrations, and they also help me pay for Western Canada Summer Games,” said Chartrand. “It means so much to me. I’m so thankful to have that, and I’m proud.”

All in all, the wrestler is proud to represent her Red River Métis roots.

“I held up the (Métis) flag at my nationals when I won gold,” she said. “I brought it to show that I’m Métis, and I’m proud to be Métis and represent my Métis heritage.”



Anaka Chartrand poses with the bronze medal she won at the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ontario.



Chartrand poses with the Métis flag after her gold medal victory at the 2022 Canadian Wrestling Championships.



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