



# Morton County

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

**Commissioners:**  
Cody Schulz, Chairman  
Bruce Strinden, Vice Chairman  
James Boehm  
Andy Zachmeier  
Ron Leingang

**Auditor:**  
Dawn R Rhone

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Contact: Morton County Public Information Officer (701) 426-1587

Morton County website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

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Additional photos from the Forum are available at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SL\\_3Bz8qSRouXnyAVscLO-5JIHlq9ksu](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SL_3Bz8qSRouXnyAVscLO-5JIHlq9ksu)

**Photo 2518:** Chairman Cody Schulz with *Peace Through Commerce* representatives

L to R: Steve and Eileen Portner, Cody Schulz, Joyce and Ken Beck

## Morton County Commission Chairman Participates in Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Oslo, Norway

Mandan, ND -- Morton County Commission Chairman, Cody Schulz, recently contributed to a Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Oslo, Norway focused on Indigenous rights within the context of social justice and environmental protection.

The forum, and subsequent dialogue, titled "Across Dividing Lines," was held the week of December 10. Stakeholders from the of Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protest and the Nussir copper mine conflict in the municipality of Kvalsund, Norway were invited to participate.

"It was an honor and really quite humbling to be asked to participate in the dialogue," said Schulz. "The subject matter is very important, and our recent experience surrounding the DAPL protest is particularly relevant to the broader conversation."

Schulz was able to share his experiences with forum sponsors, staff from the Nobel Institute of Norway, the President of the Sami (Indigenous Peoples of northern Norway) Parliament, and the Secretary General of the Norwegian Mineral Industry.

The forum was primarily sponsored by the global non-profit organization Peace Through Commerce (PTC). PTC believes in the power of commerce to create positive change. They hope to move people from single-issue solution efforts that often focus only on effects, to well-designed, coordinated, multi-sector solutions that focus on all levels of the problem: values, causes, and effects.

"My goal was to make sure that all of the facts of the situation were properly understood and the perspective of local landowners, law enforcement, and emergency responders were represented

because I believe the media, especially at the national and international level, did a very poor job reporting that side of the story,” said Schulz. “I was really quite impressed with PTC’s approach of multi-sector, multi-level engagement that looks at values, causes, and effects.”

The Nobel forum was the latest in a number of events that state and local leaders have participated in to share perspectives and promote healing.

“It is really important that we learn from what happened here over the last 18 months, and I think we also have a responsibility to help others avoid a similar situation,” said Schulz. “We hope this leads to more peaceful, respectful dialogue.”

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