

Biography of Claude Provencher



Claude Provencher was appointed Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs on July 30, 2008. The Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs ranks as and has the status of a Deputy Minister. On behalf of the Minister of Justice, the Commissioner administers the *Judges Act* which deals with salaries, benefits and pensions for 1,100 active federally appointed judges and 800 retired judges. The Commissioner's mandate is to safeguard the independence of the judiciary and ensure that federally appointed judges remain at arm's length from the Department of Justice. The Commissioner administers an annual budget of over \$400 million and is responsible for the Judicial Appointments Secretariat, which supports 17 advisory committees from across the country whose task is to assess candidates for federal judicial appointment. The Minister of Justice has also given the FJA the mandate to administer the Supreme Court of Canada Appointments Selection Panel process. In addition, FJA provides language training in both official languages to all interested judges, publishes the Federal Courts Reports, and coordinates initiatives related to the role of Canada's judiciary internationally. (See the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs' Web site at www.fja-cmf.gc.ca.)

Born in Montreal in 1964, Claude Provencher earned a law degree from the *Université de Montréal* in 1988 and was called to the *Barreau du Québec* in 1989. He earned a graduate degree in management in 2001 and a Master of Business Administration in 2002 from Montreal's *École des hautes études commerciales*. In June 2008, Mr. Provencher was appointed a Government of Canada Fellow.

Until his appointment as Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, Mr. Provencher held the position of Registrar of the Federal Court of Canada, then Director General of Judicial Services for the Quebec, Atlantic and Nunavut regions with the Courts Administration Service. In 2003-2004, he was Senior Policy Advisor with the Privy Council Office. In 2002, Mr. Provencher joined the Department of Citizenship and Immigration of Canada as Regional Director of the War Crimes and Anti-Terrorism Unit. Previously, Mr. Provencher worked at the Department of Justice of Canada for 12 years, where he practised administrative, civil and tax litigation. During that time, he had the opportunity to plead many cases before the Federal Court of Appeal, the Federal Court, the Tax Court of Canada and provincial common law courts.

Mr. Provencher is a member of the board of directors of the Association of Professional Executives of the Public Service of Canada and the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. He is also a member of the *Barreau du Québec*, the Canadian Bar Association, the International Association of Court Administrators, Transparency International and the International Commission of Jurists. He was a decision-making member of the disciplinary committee of the *Barreau du Québec* from 2002 to 2007. He was also a consultant in international cooperation projects with the judiciary in Ukraine, Russia and China. Mr. Provencher also teaches judiciary seminars at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law.