

# **Claude Laverdure**

## **Former Ambassador**



Claude Laverdure graduated from the Collège André-Grasset in Montreal in 1961 and from the Université de Montréal (Political Science) in 1965. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (External Affairs) in 1965 and served in Brussels, Paris and Tunis. From 1986 to 1988, he was Ambassador to Haiti and, from 1989 to 1992, Ambassador to Zaire, with concurrent accreditation to Burundi, Rwanda and the Congo. From 1998 to 2000, he served as Ambassador to Belgium, with concurrent accreditation to Luxembourg; he was also the Prime Minister's Personal Representative to the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. From 2003 to 2007, he was Ambassador to France.

In Ottawa, he held a number of senior positions, including Departmental Assistant to four Ministers; Federal Coordinator for La Francophonie; Director General of Human Resources; Assistant Deputy Minister, Africa and Middle East, and Assistant Deputy Minister, Europe, Middle East and North Africa. From August 2000 to December 2003, he served at the Privy Council Office as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister and as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet (Foreign and Defence Policy). From September 2002 to December 2003 he also served as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for the G8 Summit.

Mr. Laverdure is a Senior Fellow at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs of the University of Ottawa. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of the One Drop Foundation, the Canadian Ditchley Foundation, the Corporation de la Place de la Francophonie (Vancouver Games of 2010) and Opera Lyra Ottawa. He is also a member of the Canadian Committee of the House of Canadian Students in Paris (MEC).

He is Commandeur de la Légion d'honneur and Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade.

He is married to Suzanne Bisson. The couple has three children: Christian, Eric (Midori Seki), and Alexandra, as well as two grand-daughters: Mandela and Maluki.