

THE COMMISSIONERS



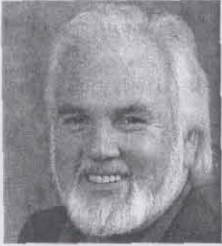
**Co-Chair Daniel J. Bellegarde** is an Assiniboine/Cree from the Little Black Bear First Nation in southern Saskatchewan. From 1981 to 1984, Mr Bellegarde worked with the Meadow Lake District Chiefs Joint Venture as a socio-economic planner. He was president of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies from 1984 to 1987. In 1988, he was elected first vice-chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, a position he held until 1997. He is currently president of Dan Bellegarde & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, management and leadership development, self governance, and human resource development in general. Mr Bellegarde was appointed Commissioner, then Co-Chair, of the Indian Claims Commission on July 27, 1992, and April 19, 1994, respectively.



**Co-Chair P.E. James Prentice, QC**, is a lawyer with the Calgary law firm of Rooney Prentice. He has an extensive background in native land claims, commencing with his work as legal counsel and negotiator for the Province of Alberta in the tripartite negotiations that brought about the Sturgeon Lake Indian Claim Settlement of 1989. Since that time, Mr Prentice has participated in the inquiry or mediation of some 70 TLE and surrender claims across Canada. Mr Prentice was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992. He has also been the faculty leader at the Banff Centre for Management's annual program on Specific Claims since 1994. He was appointed Commissioner, then Co-Chair, of the Indian Claims Commission on July 27, 1992, and April 19, 1994, respectively.

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**Roger J. Augustine** is a Mi'kmaq born at Eel Ground, New Brunswick, where he served as Chief from 1980 to 1996. He was elected president of the Union of NB-PEI First Nations in 1988, and completed his term in January 1994. He received the prestigious Medal of Distinction from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse for 1993 and 1994 in recognition of his efforts in founding and fostering both the Eel Ground Drug and Alcohol Education Centre and the Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Centre. In June 1996, he was named Miramichi Achiever of the Year by the Miramichi Regional Development Corporation. Mr Augustine was appointed a Commissioner to the Indian Claims Commission in July 1992.



**Carole T. Corcoran** is a Dene from the Fort Nelson Indian Band in northern British Columbia. Mrs Corcoran is a lawyer with extensive experience in aboriginal government and politics at the local, regional, and provincial levels. She served as a Commissioner on the Royal Commission on Canada's Future in 1990/91, and as a Commissioner to the British Columbia Treaty Commission from 1993 to 1995. She was appointed a Commissioner to the Indian Claims Commission in July 1992.



**Elijah Harper** is an Ojibwa-Cree born in Red Sucker Lake, Manitoba, where he was Chief from 1978 to 1981. Mr Harper is perhaps best known for his role in the debate surrounding the Meech Lake Accord, during which, as an opposition member for Rupertsland in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly (1981-92), he stood silently, holding a sacred eagle's feather in a symbolic stand against the Accord, citing the lack of adequate participation and recognition of aboriginal people in the constitutional amendment process. In 1986, Mr Harper was appointed Minister Without Portfolio Responsible for Native Affairs and, in 1987, he was made Minister of Northern Affairs. He was instrumental in setting up the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. Between 1993 and 1997, he sat as a Liberal Member of Parliament for Churchill, Manitoba. In 1995, Mr Harper launched a Sacred Assembly to promote spiritual reconciliation and healing between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians which brought together people of all faiths from across Canada. In 1996, Mr Harper received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for public service. He was appointed a Commissioner to the Indian Claims Commission in January 1999.



**Sheila G. Purdy** has been an advisor to the Government of the Northwest Territories on justice and other matters relating to territorial division and the creation of Nunavut. From 1993 to 1996, she was senior policy advisor to the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada on a number of justice issues, including aboriginal justice, the Canadian Human Rights Act, and violence against women. From 1991 to 1993, she was policy analyst to the National Liberal Caucus Research Bureau for the constitution, justice, aboriginal affairs, women, human rights, and the Solicitor General. In 1992/93, she was a special advisor on aboriginal affairs to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition and from 1989 to 1991, she was a legal consultant on environmental issues. She has been active in advocating against abuse of the elderly and is a co-author of *Elder Abuse: The Hidden Crime*. In 1988, she received the Award of Merit from Concerned Friends for her activities in this area. She worked as a lawyer in private practice from 1982 to 1985 after graduating with a law degree from the University of Ottawa in 1980. She was appointed a Commissioner to the Indian Claims Commission in May 1999.