

## THE COMMISSIONERS



**Chief Commissioner Phil Fontaine** is an Ojibway from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba. He has worked for many years on behalf of First Nations and has also served as an elected leader in a number of senior positions in both the federal and First Nations governments. He served as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) for three years until July 2000 and previously was Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Before serving as Grand Chief, Mr Fontaine represented Manitoba at the AFN as Vice-Chief. His experience with the federal public service includes the positions of director general of the Yukon Region of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and deputy coordinator of the Native Economic Development Program. Mr Fontaine received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1996 in recognition of his public service. He holds a bachelor of arts degree with a major in political studies from the University of Manitoba. Mr Fontaine was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission on August 29, 2001.



**Roger J. Augustine** is a Mi'kmaq born in 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 Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission on July 27, 1992.



**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. He held the position of Co-Chair until the appointment of Phil Fontaine as Chief Commissioner.



**Renée Dupuis** has had a private law practice in Quebec City since 1973. From the outset, she focused largely on human rights and specifically on the rights of Canada's aboriginal peoples. From 1972 to 1975, she served as lawyer for the Association of Indians of Quebec and beginning in 1978, acted as legal advisor to the three Attikamek and nine Montagnais bands in her home province, representing the bands in their land claims negotiations with the federal, Quebec, and Newfoundland governments, as well as in the constitutional negotiations. From 1989 to 1995, Mme Dupuis served two terms as Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. She has served as consultant to various federal and provincial government agencies, authored numerous books and articles, and lectured extensively on human rights, administrative law, and aboriginal rights. Mme Dupuis is a graduate in law from the Université Laval and holds a master's degree in public administration from the École nationale d'administration publique. She was appointed Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission on March 28, 2001.



**Alan C. Holman** is a writer and broadcaster who grew up on Prince Edward Island. In his long journalistic career, he has been an instructor at Holland College in Charlottetown, PEI; editor-publisher of a weekly newspaper in rural PEI; a radio reporter with CBC in Inuvik, NWT; and a reporter for the Charlottetown *Guardian*, *Windsor Star*, and *Ottawa Citizen*. From 1980 to 1986, he was Atlantic parliamentary correspondent for CBC-TV news in Ottawa. In 1987, he was appointed parliamentary bureau chief for CBC radio news, a position he held until 1994. That same year, he left national news reporting to become principal secretary to then-PEI Premier Catherine Callbeck. He left the premier's office in 1995 to head public sector development for the PEI Department of Development. Since the fall of 2000, Mr Holman has worked as a freelance writer and broadcaster. He was educated at King's College School in Windsor, NS, and Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, where he makes his home. He was appointed Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission on March 28, 2001.



**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 acted as policy analyst on the constitution, justice, aboriginal affairs, women, human rights, and also for the Solicitor General. In 1992 and 1993, she was a special advisor on aboriginal affairs to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition and from 1989 to 1991, she was legal consultant on environmental issues. She has been active in advocating against abuse of the elderly, and in 1988, she received the Award of Merit from Concerned Friends for her work 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 Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission on May 4, 1999.