

SHRC welcomes Judge David M. Arnot as new Chief Commissioner

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission is pleased to announce that Judge David M. Arnot was seconded to the Commission on January 15, 2009 for a five-year term.

Judge Arnot received his Bachelor of Law degree in 1975 from the University of Saskatchewan and was called to the Bar in 1976 after articling with Mr. R. Dennis Maher, Q.C. in North Battleford. After practicing law as a Crown Prosecutor between 1976 and 1978, he was appointed Senior Crown Prosecutor for the Battlefords Judicial Centre. In 1981, he was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, sitting at North Battleford.

In 1994, Judge Arnot accepted a secondment to the federal Department of Justice as Director General of the Aboriginal Justice Directorate. He was promoted to the position of Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada in May 1996.

Judge Arnot was appointed by the federal government as Treaty Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan for a five-year term in 1997. His term was extended twice, once in 2002 and again in 2005.

- His work on the “Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Project” was specifically cited as a model for Canada by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism in his 2004 report.
- In 2005, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner received the Canadian Race Relations Foundation biennial Award of Excellence for education programs in the public and government sector.
- Judge Arnot’s final report to the Treaty Table in 2007 was the 246-page book, “Treaty Implementation: Fulfilling the Covenant.”

He returned to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan sitting in Saskatoon in April 2007. The Canadian Bar Association Saskatchewan Branch honoured him that year with the “Distinguished Service Award.”

Judge Arnot is the Past Chair of the Canadian Judges Forum, which is the judge's section of the Canadian Bar Association; is a Past President of the Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judges Association, serving on the Association’s executive from 1989 to 1994; and served as the Chair of the CBA Liaison Committee of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges from 1992 to 1997.

Judge Arnot has produced and directed a number of video education projects. He has been involved in education for the Judiciary through the National Judicial Institute, the Western Judicial Education Centre, the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, and the American Judges Association.