

April 12, 2005

New judge appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta in Grande Prairie

Edmonton... Mr. James A. Watson has been appointed as a judge to the Provincial Court of Alberta in Grande Prairie, effective April 12, 2005.

"Mr. Watson will make an excellent addition to the Provincial Court," said Ron Stevens, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. "His years of practice in criminal and family law will be an asset as he takes on this new role. I wish him success as he continues his service to the community of Grande Prairie."

The Alberta Judicial Council for Provincial Judges screens all candidates for Provincial Court appointments and forwards a list of recommended applicants to the Provincial Court Nominating Committee. The Judicial Council has representatives from the Alberta Provincial Court, Court of Queen's Bench, Court of Appeal and the Law Society of Alberta. It also includes two people appointed by the Minister of Justice.

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee then interviews a number of candidates from the list provided by the Judicial Council and provides the Minister of Justice with the names of those appointees felt to be of the highest calibre.

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee was established in 1999 and is made up of 11 members appointed by the Minister of Justice. It has representatives from the Alberta Provincial Court, the Law Society of Alberta, the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch), other members from the legal profession, and the public.

Judicial appointments are approved by Order in Council.

James A. Watson graduated law school from the University of Alberta in 1970. In 1972, he joined the firm of Logan Norman as a partner. After 34 years in practice, he is now senior partner in Logan, Watson & Co. His early practice emphasized family and criminal law. In recent years, he has practiced exclusively in criminal law, serving as defense counsel in more than 30 murder trials. Mr. Watson is active in his community and has spent more than 20 years supporting community sport in Grande Prairie.

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Justice website

: <http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca>

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Send us your comments or questions

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