

March 18, 2009

Three new judges appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta

Edmonton... Three new judges have been named to the Provincial Court of Alberta.

John Henderson Q.C., has been appointed to Edmonton Criminal Provincial Court, effective March 23; Gordon Krinke to the Southern Region Provincial Court, effective March 23; and Eugene Creighton Q.C., to Calgary Regional Provincial Court, effective April 6.

"These three individuals will provide a great service to Albertans, and I congratulate them on their appointments," said Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. "The judiciary plays a critical role in Alberta's justice system, and I look forward to working together with these individuals to deliver the highest level of justice possible."

The Alberta Judicial Council screens all candidates for Provincial Court appointments and forwards a list of recommended applicants to the Provincial Court Nominating Committee. The committee then interviews candidates from the list and recommends the names of those appointees felt to be of the highest calibre to the Minister of Justice.

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee was established in 1999. Its 11 members are appointed by the Minister of Justice and represent the Alberta Provincial Court, the Law Society of Alberta, the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch), other members from the legal profession, and the public. 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.

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Attachment: Appointees' biographies

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Jill McKenzie Alberta Justice Communications 780-427-8530

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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New judges appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta Biographies:

John T. Henderson, Q.C.

John Henderson graduated from the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, in 1979. On graduation, he joined the firm of Milner & Steer and since then has practiced in the area of civil litigation with that firm, now known as Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2006, and in the same year, he was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Eileen Nash Memorial Award. At the time of his appointment he was a Bencher of the Law Society of Alberta, the Past Chair of the Edmonton Community Legal Centre and was the Vice President of Pro Bono Law Alberta.

Gordon K. Krinke

Gordon Krinke graduated from Dalhousie Law School in 1988. After opening Krinke Law Office in 1991, he focused on criminal, corporate, commercial and real estate law. Krinke worked as a teacher for 11 years in Alberta before obtaining his law degree and has been the Chair of the Grasslands Public School Board for 16 years. In 2005, he was awarded the Alberta Centennial Medal for contributions to the community.

Eugene J. Creighton, Q.C.

Eugene Creighton graduated from the University of Alberta law school in 1985. He is a member of the Blood Tribe, part of the Blackfoot Confederacy and acted as in-house Counsel to the Tribe from 1986-1994. In 1994, Creighton joined Walsh Wilkins where he assisted First Nations in negotiating claims and agreements and advised in areas of Aboriginal law. In 1999, Creighton became a partner and in 2002 the firm's name was changed to Walsh Wilkins Creighton LLP. At the time of his appointment, he was assisting and advising the Blood Tribe in developing its Tribal Justice system with plans for a provincial court on the Blood Reserve and a peace making system. He has conducted lectures and workshops on Aboriginal issues at the University of Lethbridge and Red Crow Community College. In 1980, Creighton became the first Chairperson of the Blood Tribe Police Commission. In 2005, he was named the Alberta Aboriginal Role Model in Justice. Creighton was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2007.

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