

April 15, 2010

New judges appointed to the Provincial Court

Edmonton ... Two new judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta.

Charles Donald Gardner, Q.C., has been appointed to Edmonton Region effective April 26. Donna Mildred Groves has been appointed to Criminal Court, Edmonton, effective May 3.

“I’m pleased to welcome Mr. Gardner and Ms. Groves to their new positions,” said Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. “I am confident that the experience and background they bring with them will further strengthen the Provincial Court bench.”

Gardner graduated the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Laws in 1978. After graduation, he practiced law for 13 years with the Edmonton firm of Nickerson Roberts and Hilborn, with an emphasis on criminal and family law. Since 1991 he has been a partner in Birdsell Grant Gardner LLP in Stony Plain, with a general practice focused on the areas of civil litigation, real estate, wills and estates, and corporate law. In addition to serving in various capacities with the Legal Aid Society of Alberta, the Legal Education Society of Alberta, and with the Law Society of Alberta as a Bencher, he is currently a member of the board of directors of the Alberta Law Reform Institute and the Legal Resource Centre Ltd., and the Legal Archives Society.

After graduating the University of Calgary’s law school in 1990, Groves was in private practice with Hostyn Fontaine and Groves in Edmonton, with an emphasis on criminal and family law. In 1997 she was appointed as a part-time presiding Justice of the Peace, also becoming an Administrative Justice of the Peace in 2006. Since 2008 she has been an instructor with the J. R. Shaw School of Business at NAIT teaching business law. She has worked part-time as Judge Advocate for the British government, and is an active community volunteer, including membership on, and service as president of, the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Edmonton. She was recognized with a City of Calgary Citizenship Award in 1983 and received the Instructional Excellence Award from NAIT in March 2010.

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.

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