Biographies

The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission

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Paul L.A.H. Chartrand ~ Commissioner
Wendy J. Whitecloud ~ Commissioner
Eva McKay ~ Elder Advisor
Doris Young ~ Elder Advisor

Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Commission

Associate Chief Justice Alvin Hamilton ~ former Associate Chief Justice of Manitoba of the Court of Queen's Bench
Judge Murray Sinclair ~ Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court
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Paul L.A.H. Chartrand

Teaching Certificate; B.A.; LL.B. (Hons); LL.M.
Victoria, British Columbia

Mr. Chartrand is a Métis from Manitoba, and a former professor specializing in Aboriginal law and policy issues. He is a graduate of Manitoba Teachers College, the University of Winnipeg, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Saskatchewan. He served on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and has authored numerous publications, including a book on Métis land rights. He currently works as a private consultant in Victoria, British Columbia.
Wendy J. Whitecloud

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Ms. Whitecloud is originally from Sioux Valley, a Dakota community in southern Manitoba. Upon graduation from high school in Brandon, she pursued an undergraduate degree in Calgary Alberta and worked for a number of years with the federal government in Ottawa.

While working in Ottawa, she determined that further education was required and pursued a law degree at Queen’s University in Kingston and graduated in 1984.

She has since been employed in a number of fields of employment. She came back to Manitoba in 1991 and has since been employed as Director of the Academic Support Program with the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba. The program seeks to support Aboriginal and other non-mainstream students entering the Faculty of Law.

Wendy’s interests have consistently been geared toward issues related to Aboriginal people and their lives in Canada. She has been a past board member with the Elizabeth Fry Society and is presently the Acting Chair for the Winnipeg First Nations Local Area Management Board which is an organization devoted to providing employment training for First Nations people in Winnipeg.

Wendy has one child, a son; Hanwakan.
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Eva McKay

Sioux Valley First Nation, Manitoba, Canada

Eva is a 79-year-old Elder from Sioux Valley First Nation, Manitoba. She has been actively serving her people for over 50 years. Eva is a proud mother of 12 children, 50 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and a very large extended family.

Eva was one of the first Council members for Sioux Valley. She was a member of the Council for four terms. She is one of the co-founders of the Brandon Friendship Centre, established in 1964. Eva also helped establish the Manitoba Indian Women's Association in 1969. The efforts of Eva and her colleagues for local control of education in Sioux Valley resulted in the 1979 completion of the Tatiyopa Maze School. Eva was very active locally and in 1973 she organized a women's group called Ladies Owoju Club. Their objective was to have an Elders complex built. The Dakota Lodge was completed in 1983.

Eva was a cultural worker for 10 years with the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council. She was also active with the Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services agency. Eva has been a foster parent for teenagers for many years. The YMCA of Brandon presented Eva with the Woman of Distinction Award in 1988. She also received the Canada 125th Commemorative Award for public service in 1993. Eva served on the National Parole Board in 1996. She has been actively involved with the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. She is on the Self-Government Advisory Committee for Sioux Valley. Eva has been a member of the Advisory Elders Panel at Brandon University for over 30 years.

Eva was an elder adviser at the beginning of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry process of 1991.

Eva McKay is a Traditional Elder, Sweat-Lodge holder and a well-respected Healer.
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Doris Young

Opaskwayak Cree Nation
The Pas, Manitoba, Canada

Doris Young is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation of The Pas, Manitoba. She speaks and writes Cree.

Doris has worked with Aboriginal people for many years in the area of education, housing, justice and Aboriginal issues. She has developed expertise in program planning, organizational development and evaluation. As the senior researcher of the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, she became knowledgeable about the issues relating to justice and the Aboriginal people in Manitoba. She has worked with Elders in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, developing culturally appropriate programs and services. Doris has also travelled extensively throughout Manitoba and Canada in her work.

She believes that self-government and the redevelopment of First Nations institutions will have a positive influence on youth and on Canadian society in general.

In her work with the Aboriginal women's organizations, her teachers were her aunts, sisters, cousins and friends. She learned about teamwork, determination, hope and courage from all the women she came into contact with. Her organizational and management skills helped to build the Indigenous Women's Collective of Manitoba, of which she was the first president.

She has taught at the University of Manitoba in the Native Studies department and worked in the continuing education division, and also at the University of Winnipeg.

She works at present at Keewatin Community College in The Pas, Manitoba as Director of Aboriginal Initiatives.

Doris holds an honours degree in political science and a master's degree in public affairs.
Associate Chief Justice Hamilton was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to the late Judge F.A.E. Hamilton of the Winnipeg Juvenile Court and Aleda Hamilton, and attended Grosvenor, Robert H. Smith and Kelvin High School. He and his wife Lorna have four adult children. After some time in the Canadian Infantry he attended United College and the Manitoba Law School, graduating in 1950. He practiced law in Winnipeg, Roblin, Melita, and Brandon between 1951 and 1971, was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1968, and was a Bencher of the Law Society of Manitoba. His main areas of practice were civil litigation and criminal defence.

While in Brandon he was the President of the Chamber of Commerce, founding President of the Brandon branch of the John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society, a founding Board member of the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre and was a member of the District and Division school boards. He was the founding President of MAST (Manitoba Association of School Trustees).

He was appointed to the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench in 1971, and as Associate Chief Justice of the Family Division (Manitoba’s new Unified Family Court) in 1983. In that position he was a member of the Canadian Judicial Council. (Chief Justice Hamilton took early retirement in 1993 to do mediation and to work on Aboriginal issues).
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Judge Murray Sinclair

Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court

The Honourable Associate Chief Judge Murray Sinclair was appointed Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba in March of 1988. He was Manitoba's first Aboriginal Judge, and at that time, Canada's second. At present there are 18 Aboriginal judges Canada.

After serving as Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Manitoba, Judge Sinclair attended the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba and, in 1979, graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. He was awarded the A. J. Christie Prize in Civil Litigation in his second year of law and articled with a law firm in his home town of Selkirk, Manitoba.

He was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1980. In the course of his legal practice, Judge Sinclair practiced primarily in the fields of Civil and Criminal Litigation and Aboriginal Law. He represented a cross section of clients but by the time of his appointment, was known for his representation of Aboriginal people and his knowledge of Aboriginal legal issues.

Shortly after his appointment as Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba in 1988, Judge Sinclair was also appointed as Co-Commissioner, along with Court of Queen's Bench Associate Chief Justice A. C. Hamilton, of Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.