

**Court Martial Appeal Court of  
Canada**



**Cour d'appel de la cour martiale du  
Canada**

**Federal Court**



**Cour fédérale**

**OTTAWA, June 27, 2014** – The Federal Court and Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada jointly issued the following media bulletin today:

The Honourable Edmond P. Blanchard, Chief Justice of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada and judge of the Federal Court, passed away in Ottawa on June 27, 2014, after a brief illness. Chief Justice Blanchard attended Dalhousie University, Halifax, from 1975 to 1978, was called to the bar of New Brunswick in 1979, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1991. He practised law in Campbellton, New Brunswick, from 1979 to 1987 and was then elected to the New Brunswick Legislature in 1987 and re-elected in 1991, 1995 and 1999, occupying the position of Minister of State for Mines (1989 to 1991), Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Minister Intergovernmental Affairs (1991 to 1995), Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation (1991 to 1993), Minister of Finance, Chair of Board of Management and Minister of State responsible for Quality (1995 to 1999), and Official Opposition Critic of Natural Resources & Energy and Aboriginal Issues (1999). He was appointed judge of the Federal Court of Canada, Trial Division, and *ex officio* member of the Court of Appeal, on October 5, 2000; judge of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada on December 13, 2000; member of the Competition Tribunal on October 29, 2002; and Chief Justice of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada on September 17, 2004.

Chief Justice Paul Crampton, on behalf of the Federal Court, and Acting Chief Justice Dolores Hansen, on behalf of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada, lamented Chief Justice Blanchard's passing: "Edmond Blanchard was a truly exceptional person. He had a life-long commitment to public service and the administration of justice. He was appointed to the Federal Court and Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada at a time of significant change in the organization of the federal courts, providing leadership and stability in their path to modernization of court administration. His outstanding judicial work was marked by wise judgment, thoroughness and attention to detail. On the Federal Court, he was assigned the most difficult cases, while on the Court Martial Appeal Court he invariably assumed a leading role in those types of matters. His life's work and friendships were tempered by his profound humility, keen intellect, and maritime humour. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

Details regarding funeral arrangements will follow shortly.

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