

For immediate publication

NEWS RELEASE

Tradition and transformation: 50 years of “justice for the people”

Ottawa, Ontario, June 22, 2022 — The Federal Court of Appeal and the Federal Court, with the support of the National Judicial Institute, will be holding a symposium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their creation.

This large-scale event will take place in both official languages at Château Laurier in Ottawa on June 27, 28 and 29, 2022. It will bring together active and retired judges from both courts, as well as jurists and researchers. Esteemed guests from the two countries that founded the legal traditions—common law and civil law—in which the federal courts are rooted will take part in a discussion on the national courts in an evolving world.

These two guests—Chantal Arens, First President of the Cour de cassation, and the Rt Hon The Lord Reed of Allermuir, President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom —will also deliver speeches as part of the symposium, as will the Right Honourable Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada, and Richard Pound, a tax specialist and internationally renowned lawyer.

While the webinars broadcast in fall 2021 following the publication of the book *The Federal Court of Appeal and the Federal Court: 50 Years of History* focused on the issues of national security, immigration law and intellectual property law, the symposium will also cover themes closely related to the practices of the federal courts. These themes include administrative law; bilingualism and official languages; laws related to issues faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples; and environmental law. A panel of experts will also discuss the role and place of the federal courts within the Canadian judicial system and talk about the boundaries of their jurisdiction.

The panels and speeches will be available to the public on the following livestream:

<https://fca-fc-50.can.chime.live/>

Password: FCA_FC_50e

HISTORY

On June 1, 1971, Bill C-192 came into force, creating the Federal Court of Canada’s trial and appeal divisions.

“It will bring justice to the people, decentralize the operation of the present court, make the court more accessible, quicker and less expensive.” — *The Honourable John Turner, March 25, 1970, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.*

Following a reform of the federal judicial system, the two divisions of the Federal Court of Canada became separate courts in 2003—the Federal Court of Appeal and the Federal Court.

Their predecessor, the Exchequer Court, was created in 1875, at the same time as the Supreme Court of Canada; both courts were established by the same legislation. The federal courts as we know them today are therefore the product of a long endeavour.

For members of the Bar

The law societies of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Saskatchewan recognize the symposium as a continuing professional development (CPD) activity (please consult the [website](#) for the number of hours). In Ontario, the “Indigenous Peoples and the Federal Courts” program contains 2 hours and 30 minutes of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Professionalism content. Members of the Bar in the other provinces and territories may elect to include these webinars in their annual mandatory CPD plans.

For further information, please contact:

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<https://www.fct-cf.gc.ca/en/pages/about-the-court/fiftieth-anniversary>