

## **THE HONOURABLE DONNA J. MARTINSON Q.C., LL.M.**

Donna Martinson was a judge for 21 years and now works on a volunteer basis as an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University School of Criminology, working with the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence against Women and Children, and as an Honorary Visitor at the UBC Faculty of Law, Centre for Feminist Legal Studies. She is Chair of the national Canadian Bar Association's committee on the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. She has worked with Dr. Margaret Jackson, the Director of the FREDA Centre, on a number of projects relating to violence against women and children. In addition to the research project on intimate partner violence and multiple proceedings, their work has included designing and presenting an education program on intimate partner violence for Canadian judges and a similar program for B.C. lawyers.

Donna Martinson was appointed as a Judge of the BC Provincial Court in 1991, the BC Supreme Court in 1998 and as a Deputy Judge of the Yukon Supreme Court in 2005. Before that, she was a full time faculty member of the UBC Law Faculty for two years, and practiced as Crown Counsel, criminal defence counsel and family law lawyer in Calgary for 14 years. She, along with Dr. Kathleen Helmet, started Calgary's first all women law firm in 1981. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in Alberta in 1986 and obtained her LL.M from Cambridge University, England, in 1987. She taught family law at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law and criminal law at UBC's Faculty of Law.

In the mid-1990s she was seconded for 18 months to the National Judicial Institute in Ottawa where she co-chaired its social context education project. This involved developing and presenting intensive national judicial education programs for Canadian judges on equality issues, including issues relating to violence against women and children in both criminal law and family law proceedings. She also chaired the Provincial Court's Gender Equality Committee.

While on the Supreme Court she chaired the Court's Family Law Committee. The then Chief Justice described her work as being instrumental in changing the way that Court approaches family law matters. She was (and continues to be) a member of the Federal Department of Justice Advisory Committee on Family law and was appointed by the Chief Justice as B.C.'s representative on the Canadian Network of Contact Judges, which deals with international and national child abduction cases.