

**Curriculum Vitae of
The Honourable Wally Oppal, Q.C., LL.D., FCI Arb (Hons.)**

Wally Oppal was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. After graduating from the University of British Columbia Law School, he was a trial lawyer for fourteen years. During that time, he was appointed as a Special Prosecutor by the Attorney General on many high profile criminal cases including over fifty homicide cases. He was also a Special Prosecutor on commercial crime and drug cases.

Mr. Oppal served as a judge in the County Court of British Columbia from 1981 to 1985, and in the B.C. Supreme Court from 1985 to 2003, when he was appointed to the B.C. Court of Appeal. While he sat on the Supreme Court bench he was appointed to conduct a commission of inquiry into policing in British Columbia. The inquiry was called after a number of police shootings of civilians. After holding over fifty days of public hearings, the commission filed a report which led to many reforms in policing both in British Columbia and across Canada.

These reforms included the establishment of an Office of a Public Complaint Commissioner, guidelines around use of force, high speed chases, use of firearms for police and recommendations for diversity in policing. The report entitled, "Closing the Gap" is considered by many to be the last word in policing in Canada.

During his time as a Supreme Court Justice, he also appeared on many public forums, talk shows and seminars involving the Civil and Criminal Justice systems in British Columbia and in Canada.

In 1994, the newly elected government of South Africa appointed Mr. Oppal along with three other persons to conduct an investigation and to make recommendations on access to justice in South Africa. The committee spent five weeks in South Africa holding public meetings with many groups and filed a report with the South African Government on how to better serve the public of Africa in the areas of public safety including civil and criminal justice. He was a frequent guest lecturer at the National Judicial Institute which holds seminars for Judges across Canada. In addition to being a speaker at many international conferences, Mr. Oppal was invited by the Government of China to give advice on their Criminal Justice System. He has been a frequent guest lecturer on international policing conferences including attendance as a key note speaker at two anti-corruption conferences for policing in Sydney, Australia in 1999.

In 2005, Mr. Oppal resigned from the Court of Appeal and was appointed Attorney General of British Columbia and Minister for Multiculturalism. During his years as Attorney General, there were many significant reforms in the Civil and Criminal Justice systems including the establishment of a Community Court which was to deal with the issue of chronic offenders in the downtown eastside of Vancouver. The rules of the Supreme Court were reformed in order to make Alternative Dispute Resolution mandatory in many cases, to help speed up justice. As the Attorney General, he was an advocate at a number of community forums relating to violence against women. In 2010, Mr. Oppal was appointed by the Treasury Board of Canada as an independent advisor on matters related to Federal budgets and Federal spending.

On September 27, 2010 the Lieutenant Governor in Council issued an Order in Council establishing the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (the "Inquiry"). Mr. Oppal was named Commissioner of the Inquiry. The Inquiry was established to:

- (a) inquire into and make findings of fact respecting the conduct of the investigations conducted between January 23, 1997 and February 5, 2002, by police forces in British Columbia respecting women reported missing from the Downtown Eastside of the city of Vancouver;
- (b) inquire into and make findings of fact respecting the decision of the Criminal Justice Branch on January 27, 1998, to enter a stay of proceedings on charges against Robert William Pickton of attempted murder, assault with a weapon, forcible confinement and aggravated assault;
- (c) recommend changes considered necessary respecting the initiation and conduct of investigations in British Columbia of missing women and suspected multiple homicides; and
- (d) recommend changes considered necessary respecting homicide investigations in British Columbia by more than one investigating organization, including the co-ordination of those investigations; and
- (e) to submit a final report to the Attorney General.

After holding 93 days of public hearings, the Inquiry published a 1400 page report with 65 recommendations dealing primarily with policing reforms and the public reaction to the murders. As a result there have been a number of legislative changes redefining missing persons and police responses to missing women.

Over Mr. Oppal's career he has held various positions. Some of these include:

- President, Justice Education Society of British Columbia
- Former Director, Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- Member of both the Advisory Committee, Law Reform Commission of Canada, and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for a National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention
- A much sought after speaker on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women; as well as issues related to violence against women
- Frequent guest lecturer at Universities and High schools on matters related to the Criminal and Civil Justice Systems
- Frequent guest lecturer at Judicial Seminars, Police Conferences and Public Forums
- Former Director, B.C. Coalition for Safer Communities
- Chairman of the Simon Fraser University India Advisory Council
- Member of the Golden Key International Honours Society

- Chancellor of Thompson Rivers University
- President of the CKNW Orphans Fund, a Children's Charity
- Member of the Board of the Ronald McDonald House
- Frequent speaker at Bond University in Australia
- Board member of the Law Courts Inn (British Columbia)
- Board member of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

Mr. Oppal has been the recipient of the following awards:

- Honorary Doctor of Laws, Simon Fraser University (2021)
- CACOLE, Mitchell-Lewis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement in Canada (2017)
- Darpan Magazine, Industry Marvel Award (2016)
- World Sikh Organization, Recognition Award (2016)
- Drishti Magazine, Humanitarian Award (2016)
- Queens Diamond Jubilee Award (2015)
- RBC Mehfil Magazine, Lifetime Achievement Award (2010)
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of the Fraser Valley (2010)
- Saba South Asian Bar Association, Pioneer Award (2009)
- Lawyers Assistance Program of B.C., Lawyer Helping Lawyer Award (2007)
- Anthony P. Pantages, Q.C., Medal for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Public Safety (2005 - Awarded by the Justice Institute of British Columbia)
- Winner of the Annual Bench Award from the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia (2002)
- Georges A. Goyer, Q.C., Distinguished Service Award (2000)

Most recently, Mr. Oppal has received diplomas from the following institutions:

- Certified as an International Arbitrator by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Houston TX (2016)
- Certified as a Mediator by the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine, CA (2016)

Mr. Oppal is presently involved as a mediator and arbitrator, particularly in commercial disputes involving business, Government and First Nations. Also, Mr. Oppal is an adjudicator and commissioner in disciplinary matters under the *Police Act* of British Columbia.

In 2017, the Government of British Columbia awarded Mr. Oppal with the Order of British Columbia which is awarded to persons who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the service of the Province.

In 2018, the Government of Canada appointed Mr. Oppal as panelist to resolve disputes on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (now United States, Mexico, Canada Trade Agreement).
