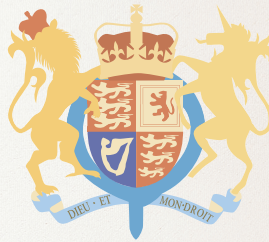


The Caron Case: The Status of French in Western Canada

PROCLAMATION

December 6th 1869

V.



R.

[...] By Her Majesty's authority I do therefore assure you, that on the union with Canada all your civil and religious rights and privileges will be respected, [...] and that your Country will be governed, as in the past. [...]

H.L. Langevin
Secretary of State

John Young
Governor General of Canada

[...] Par l'autorité de Sa Majesté, je vous assure donc que sous l'union avec le Canada, tous vos droits et privilèges civils et religieux seront respectés, [...] et que votre pays sera gouverné, comme par le passé. [...]

H.L. Langevin
Secrétaire d'État

John Young
Gouverneur-Général du Canada

Authority: Extract of the proclamation, Third session of the First Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, 1870, 33 Victoria.

February 19 and 20, 2010

Institut français, University of Regina
Saskatchewan, Canada



Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan (AJEFS)



Institut français

The Caron Case

In 2003, Gilles Caron asked the courts to acknowledge the constitutional status of French in the legislative and judicial processes of Alberta. After a year-and-a-half long trial, the Provincial Court of Alberta decreed that the article of the provincial law on traffic safety, in respect to M. Caron, was invalid because the law was only in English. The Crown appealed this decision and on December 17th 2009, the Court of Queen's Bench rescinded it. However, the Court of Queen's Bench did not question the historical proof presented by Mr. Caron. The Court also acknowledged that Mr. Caron was raising an important constitutional question that had never been answered by the courts. Therefore, Mr. Caron is asking leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal of Alberta. This motion should be heard in March.

Welcome from the Conference Co-Presidents



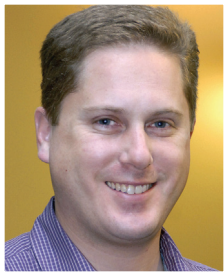
On behalf of the Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan, I am honored to welcome you at the conference on the Status of French in Western Canada: The Caron Case.

This is a meaningful conference for the francophone communities in a minority environment and for the Metis Nation. The Caron Case takes a look at a very interesting and almost unknown period of the Canadian history. This case brings up important constitutional questions.

The organizing committee will introduce you to prestigious speakers that are well known in legal, sociological and historical matters. These guests will make this conference a unique opportunity to have access to an array of information, different perspectives and thoughts on current concerns. We hope you will follow this case with great interest.

An excellent conference to each of you!

Peter Bergbusch
President
Association des juristes
d'expression française
de la Saskatchewan



The Institut français warmly welcomes you to both “The Caron Case: The Status of French in Western Canada” and the francophone campus of the University of Regina.

Mandated since its creation in 2003 to contribute to the development of the Fransaskois community via university programming, research, student services and university-community initiatives, the Institut français is the very unique result of a strategic partnership between the University of Regina and the Fransaskois community.

Given its mandate, the Institut français is pleased to offer, in partnership with the Association des juristes d’expression française de la Saskatchewan, an academic and community conference that, through an examination of the questions raised by the R. v. Caron case, will serve to generate new reflexion and debate on the status of French in western Canada.

The Institut français team wishes you an enjoyable and stimulating conference.

Peter Dorrington
Director
Institut français
University of Regina

Conference Organizing Committee

Co-Presidents

Peter Bergbusch

President
Association des juristes
d'expression française de
la Saskatchewan (AJEFS)

Peter Dorrington

Director
Institut français
University of Regina

Members

Sophie Bouffard

Coordinator
Centre canadien de recherche
sur les francophonies
en milieu minoritaire (CRFM)
Institut français
University of Regina

Céline Desrosiers

Executive Director
Association des juristes
d'expression française de
la Saskatchewan (AJEFS)

Roger Lepage

Vice-President
Association des juristes
d'expression française de
la Saskatchewan (AJEFS)

Réналd Rémillard

Executive Director
Fédération des associations
de juristes d'expression française
de common law (FAJEFCL)

Collaborators

Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise
Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta
Fédération des juristes d'expression française de common law

Assistant Project Coordinator

Cassandre Louis

Project development officer
AJEFS

Artistic Direction

Michel Lalonde

Friday, February 19, 2010

8:15 **Registration**

8:15 **Shuttle Service** (Ramada, Quality Inn, Radisson to Institut français)

9:00 **Opening Remarks** (LI 216)

Peter Bergbusch, AJEFS
Peter Dorrington, Institut français

9:15 **The Caron Case: An Overview** (LI 216)

Rupert Baudais
Defense lawyer in the Caron case
Balfour Moss LLP

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **Legal Considerations** (LI 216)

Session Chair: Roger Lepage
 Balfour Moss LLP

Origins of Language Rights in Western Canada
François Larocque
University of Ottawa

The Flouting of Language Rights in Western Canada

Michel Doucet
Université de Moncton

The Guarantees of the Continuity of Language Rights in Western Canada

Mark Power
Heenan Blaikie LLP
University of Ottawa

Constitutional Status of the Royal Proclamation of 1869

Pierre Foucher
University of Ottawa

11:45 **Shuttle Service** (Radisson to Institut français)

12:00 **Lunch** (LI 215)

1:00 **Reconvening Remarks** (LI 216)

1:10 **Address** (LI 216)

Graham Fraser
Commissioner of Official Languages

1:30 **Address** (LI 216)

Gilles Caron

1:45 **The Caron Case and its Underpinnings** (LI 216)

Ensuring that Vested Rights are Respected: The Caron Case and the Constitutional Protection of Official Bilingualism in Western Canada

Edmund Auger
Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta

2:45 **Break**

3:00 **Presentation** (LI 216)

Geneviève Boudreau
Language Rights Support Program

3:15 **Sociological Issues** (LI 216)

Session Chair: Gratien Allaire
Laurentian University

The State and Linguistic Minorities: The Perspective of Cultural Autonomy

Rodrigue Landry
Université de Moncton

The Caron Case: A Preliminary Analysis of the Opposing Paradigms in the Wenden Judgement

Wilfrid Denis
St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan

4:30 **Shuttle** (Institut français to Ramada, Quality Inn, Radisson)

5:45 **Shuttle** (Ramada, Quality Inn, Radisson to MacKenzie Art Gallery)

6:00 **Reception and Banquet** (MacKenzie Art Gallery)

8:30 **Terre de chants*** (MacKenzie Art Gallery)

On the playbill: Christie-Anne Blondeau
Terry Boyer
Annette Campagne
Serge Carrière
Michel Chammartin
Michel Lalonde
Dave Lawlor
Francis Marchildon
Brad Moggie
Alexis Normand
Jacqueline Perrault

*Co-organized by the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise and the Institut français

10:00 **Shuttle** (MacKenzie Art Gallery to Ramada, Quality Inn, Radisson)

Saturday, February 20, 2010

8:15 **Shuttle** (Ramada, Quality Inn, Radisson to Institut français)

9:00 **Welcome** (LI 216)

9:15 **Historical Perspectives** (LI 216)

Session Chair: Yves Frenette
 University of Ottawa

*Language of the Land and Language of Work:
French in Northwest Canada in the 19th Century*
Juliette Champagne

French in the District of Assiniboia: A Historical Perspective
Raymond-M. Hébert

*Language Planning 'avant la lettre':
Unilingualism and Bilingualism in Western Canada*
Gratien Allaire
Laurentian University

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **Roundtable: Métis Perspectives** (LI 216)

Facilitator: Peter Dorrington
Institut français

Guests: Paul Chartrand
Lorena Sekwan Fontaine

12:00 **Lunch** (LI 215)

12:30 **Launch of a book by Carol Jean Léonard** (LI 216)

“Mémoire des noms de lieux d’origine et d’influence françaises en Saskatchewan”

1:15 **Roundtable: What the Francophone Communities of Canada Have at Stake in the Caron Case** (LI 216)

First Session

Facilitator: Rénald Rémillard
Fédération des associations des juristes d’expression française de common law

Guests: Roger Lepage
Peter Bergbusch
Ronald Bisson
Denis Perreux
Michel Dubé

2:30 **Break**

Second Session

Facilitator: Rénald Rémillard
Fédération des associations des juristes d'expression
française de common law

Guests: Peter Bergbusch
Ronald Bisson
Michel Dubé
Roger Lepage
Denis Perreaux

4:00 **Closing Remarks** (LI 216)

Peter Bergbusch, AJEFS
Peter Dorrington, Institut français

4:15 **Shuttle** (Institut français to Ramada, Quality Inn, Radisson)

Paper Abstracts

François Larocque, Michel Doucet and Mark Power

The Caron Case and the Durability of Linguistic Rights in Western Canada

The Caron Case deals with the durability of the “fait français” in western Canada, with the continuation in space and time of a linguistic community and its fundamental rights. In its judgement of July 2, 2008, the Provincial Court of Alberta recognized this continuity and gave it judicial impact by suspending the application of some Albertan laws that, by their unilingual nature, contravened guarantees of the continuity of the defendant’s language rights.

In a three-part presentation, we will clarify (1) the origins of language rights (2) the continuity of their legal effect and (3) their subsequent flouting, in order to highlight the importance of the Caron case.

1. Origins of Language Rights in Western Canada

We will clarify the genesis, the nature and the scope of the language rights of the inhabitants of Rupert’s Land and of the Northwest by examining the legislative, administrative and judicial powers of the Hudson’s Bay Company and the manner in which these powers were historically exercised.

2. The Flouting of Language Rights in Western Canada

To highlight the importance of the judicial recognition of the continuity of language rights in western Canada, as set forth by the Caron case, it is important to accentuate how this continuity has been denied and even flouted at various stages of the constitutional development of the provinces of western Canada.

3. The Guarantees of the Continuity of Language Rights in Western Canada

We will trace the legal continuity of language rights recognized under the Hudson’s Bay Company regime; the durability assured by the Royal Proclamation of December 6, 1869; legal acts related to the transfer of Rupert’s Land (Addresses and Order-in-council) and the Constitution Act of 1982.

Pierre Foucher

Constitutional Status of the Royal Proclamation of 1869

This paper will explore the exact constitutional status of the Royal Proclamation of 1869 that guaranteed rebel Métis the protection of all their civil and political rights. Through an examination of royal proclamations as a source of positive law and by analyzing the status of aboriginal rights pursuant to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, we will consider whether such documents could be seen as legitimate and legal assertions of constitutional rights, without analyzing the nature and the substance of these rights. We will also analyze the interaction between the proclamation and constitutional and legislative texts that recognized the legal status of French and English in the West.

Edmund Auger

Ensuring that Vested Rights are Respected: The Caron Case and the Constitutional Protection of Official Bilingualism in Western Canada

In 1867, when the Parliament of Canada adopted an address to the Queen asking that she annex Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories, it committed itself to ensure that all "vested rights" would be respected. This commitment, that the Queen inserted by an order-in-council in the Constitution of Canada three years later, is the cornerstone of the Caron case today. We will explain how it grants constitutional protection to official bilingualism in western Canada.

Rodrigue Landry

The State and Linguistic Minorities: The Perspective of Cultural Autonomy

Many minority languages are threatened around the world and even international languages like French cease to be spoken in certain minority contexts. Is it a willful choice of the members of

these linguistic communities? Is this an inevitable reality of social determinism? What is the role of the State in the preservation of endangered languages? Answers to these questions will be proposed in the presentation of the conceptual model of cultural autonomy. In this conference, we will emphasize the role of the State. Particular attention will be directed toward francophone communities in minority situations in Canada, including those of western Canada.

Wilfrid Denis

The Caron Case: A Preliminary Analysis of the Opposing Paradigms in the Wenden Judgement

The judgement of the Honorable Judge Leo Wenden of the Provincial Court of Alberta, in the Caron case of July 2nd 2008, raises many questions of jurisprudence and questions related to possible effects on linguistic rights in Alberta, Saskatchewan and even in the Northwest Territories. A fundamental dimension of this judgement is its inherent ideological conflict and its possible ramifications for the French-speaking people of these regions. In my opinion, the thorough analysis that informs Judge Wenden's judgement, relative to the defendant's position and that of the Crown, demonstrates not only the differences between the arguments of both sides, but also reflects conflicting paradigms: a conservative and anglo-dominated perspective on one side and a Métis perspective on the other. John Ralston Saul (2008) associates this conservative and anglo-dominated ideology to the rise of the British Empire and its manifestations in Canada since 1840. Ralston Saul (2008) also noted that the other current comes from the Métis perspective whose origins lie in the Canadian First Nation civilization and which transforms certain elements of European liberal ideology. Does the judgement go further so as to incorporate certain elements of a transformed and radical ideology favorable to linguistic communities? It is important to clarify the ideological basis of the judgement to better anticipate the challenges linguistic communities will confront in attempting to enforce this judgement. This judgement will have a positive impact on linguistic communities only if the basis of the most transformative of these implied paradigms translates itself into concrete actions through the linguistic communities' institutions and through those of the dominant society.

Juliette Champagne

Language of the Land and Language of Work: French in Northwest Canada in the 19th Century

From an almost completely oral culture, early explorers and their Métis offspring left us little written trace testifying to their 19th Century presence in the Northwest. Nevertheless, toponymy, life stories and compilations of cultural practices clearly demonstrate the presence as well as the persistence of the Métis language to this day. Additional documents written in English by employers, snatches of travel stories (also in English, but riddled with exquisite French expressions provided by their guides) and administrative documents of the Hudson Bay Company (in the vast majority in English) all show us the presence of French as a language of work. We also note the frequency with which French words are used throughout these documents. Thus we note the vestiges of the *voyageurs* in the jargons that were developed between them and the aboriginal populations people of the vast territory, through their commercial transactions and their family ties. This interaction created a “sibir” or “lingua franca” that not only played a significant role in the fur trade but also, following the arrival of French-speaking missionaries, facilitated the learning of indigenous languages and the development of writing systems.

Gratien Allaire

Language Planning ‘avant la lettre’: Unilingualism and Bilingualism in Western Canada

Questions of language in French-speaking Canada are often interpreted in terms of assimilation and of linguistic continuation, of protective state policies or even of institutional completeness. These concepts poorly explain the historical continuation of French-speaking communities in Canada. The analysis of the evolution of these communities in light of the notion of language planning, as defined by Christiane Loubier, allows us to better understand the multiple factors that had favorable or unfavorable effects on linguistic continuity: governments, institutions, associations, individuals... Such analysis results in a sociological interpretation of court rulings that have greatly influenced the status and the place of French-speaking communities in western Canada.

Raymond-M. Hébert

French in the District of Assiniboia: A Historical Perspective

The presence of French in the Assiniboia District goes back to the beginning of Canada's history and the development of the Red River settlement, which eventually led to the first bilingual regime in Canada. Our presentation will briefly recount the parameters of the francophone presence in western Canada and the government of Assiniboia's evolution toward real representation of all ethnic and linguistic elements. This representativity has been documented in all government institutions of this era, notably during the 1850-1870 period.

Biographical Notices of Speakers

Dr. Gratien Allaire is a professor at Laurentian University in Sudbury. Professor Allaire is a historian by discipline and has been studying the Canadian *francophonie* outside Québec for many years. He has also notably contributed to the renewal of the historical understanding of the francophone population of western Canada in general and that of Alberta in particular. Professor Allaire has published multiple articles and directed or co-directed many collective works. He is also the director of the *Institut franco-ontarien* (IFO).

Dr. Edmund A. Aunger is a political science professor at the *Campus Saint-Jean* of the University of Alberta. A specialist in linguistic governance in Canada and western Canada, he is the author of multiple works on the official languages policy of Canada and Belgium, on the vitality of French communities in western Canada, on linguistic duality in New Brunswick and on the history of language rights in Canada. Dr. Aunger was called as an expert witness in the Caron case. His verbal testimony sought to demonstrate that Canada's Constitution guarantees French official language status in Alberta.

Rupert Baudais is the defense lawyer in *R v. Caron* and has been involved at each level at which this case has been heard in the Alberta judicial system. He works, in French and in English, in the areas of language and constitutional rights, labour and employment law, civil and penal litigation and privacy law. A native of Saskatchewan, he has long been involved in the Fransaskois community. He is the former president of the *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan* and remains active in this association. Mr. Baudais has been member of the Bar since 1980. He practices law at Balfour Moss LLP in Regina.

Peter T. Bergbusch is a partner at Balfour Moss LLP. Mr. Bergbusch practices mainly in the fields of civil and commercial litigation. He has also led cases in the fields of constitutional law, administrative law, defamation and municipal law. His expertise also includes professional ethics law, insurance, and arbitration. Peter Bergbusch is bilingual and practices law in both French and English. He is also

the president of the *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan*. Mr. Bergbusch represents the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise*, which is an intervenor in the Caron case.

Ronald Bisson is originally from La Broquerie in Manitoba and has lived in Ottawa since 1982.

He started his career as a teacher in Manitoba and subsequently shifted toward community development. He was the research and policy officer at the *Société franco-manitobaine* in Saint-Boniface for three years and the executive director at the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française* in Ottawa for seven years. He has also been running a consulting firm for twenty years. Over the past ten years, Mr. Bisson has completed seventy-five projects in the field of official languages throughout Canada, including the development of strategic plans, the carrying out of action research and the evaluation of different initiatives at the local provincial and national levels. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts (Latin and Philosophy), a Certificate in Education from the *Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface* and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Juliette Champagne holds a doctoral degree in history from *Université Laval* (2001).

Her dissertation was published by the Presses de l'Université Laval in 2003 under the title *De la Bretagne aux plaines de l'Ouest Canadien, lettres d'un défricheur franco-albertain, Alexandre Mahé (1880-1968)*. She is a reputable expert in the field of French Canadian history in western Canada. Dr. Champagne is an independent scholar of history, particularly in fields concerning western Canadian French-speaking communities (notably the Caron case), *métissage*, and First Nations. She has recently contributed to various websites on the AlbertaSource.ca portal. Dr. Champagne was also called as an expert witness in the Caron case.

Dr. Paul Chartrand is a graduate of Manitoba Teacher's College, the University of Winnipeg, the law schools at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the University of Saskatchewan. He has held teaching and other academic appointments in Canada, the USA,

New Zealand and Australia. He has served on a number of public bodies and policy commissions dealing with Aboriginal issues, including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. He has been honoured by the Indigenous Bar Association with the designation “Indigenous People’s Counsel” and received the “Outstanding Alumni” award from the QUT law school in 2001.

Dr. Wilfrid Denis is a sociology professor at St. Thomas More College of the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Denis is very involved in the Fransaskois community and has served a term as president of the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise*. Wilfrid Denis was also the president of the *Commission on Inclusion in the Fransaskois Community* and a member of the advisory committee of the *Survey on the Vitality of Official Language Minorities*. Dr. Denis was called as an expert witness in the Caron case to speak on the social role of law and the role of legislative and judicial institutions, as well as on the systemic origins and nature of the social and cultural disadvantages sustained by Canadian francophone minorities.

Dr. Peter Dorrington is the director of the Institut français. He leads Saskatchewan’s francophone university institution, which is provincially mandated to contribute to the development of the Fransaskois community, in the inclusive sense of the term, via academic programs, research, student services and university-community initiatives. A francophone whose first language is English, Mr. Dorrington joined the Institut français shortly after its creation in 2003, serving first as the founding director of the *Centre canadien de recherche sur les francophonies en milieu minoritaire (CRFM)* and then as the Institut français’ first associate director before being appointed acting director in July 2009. Mr. Dorrington is also a member of the University of Regina’s Department of French and holds a doctoral degree in 20th century and contemporary French literature from Dalhousie University.

Michel Doucet c.r. is a lawyer and a full professor in the Faculty of Law at the *Université de Moncton*. Michel Doucet also actively practices law, mainly in the area of language rights. He has pleaded numerous language rights cases in various Canadian provinces as well as before the Supreme Court of Canada. In addition to his university career and his active law practice,

Mr. Doucet is very involved in his community. Indeed, he is a great advocate of language rights and is particularly committed to the promotion of the *Francophonie* and the development of francophone common law.

Michel Dubé is the president of the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise*. Born in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Mr. Dubé has been involved in the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise* since 1999. Having worked in francophone community development, education and politics, he has developed a global vision on issues related to minorities in western Canada. His academic background is in literature and psychology. Michel Dubé has also been educated in journalism and worked as a journalist for a time. Mr. Dubé has been an entrepreneur in the Prince Albert area for the past 20 years. He currently operates a bison farm north of Prince Albert.

Lorena Sekwan Fontaine is Cree and Anishnabe from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Aboriginal Governance Program at the University of Winnipeg. Ms. Fontaine is also a doctoral candidate at the University of Manitoba researching Aboriginal language rights in Canada. Ms. Fontaine has worked with Aboriginal political organizations for the past 19 years. She has also been involved with the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund as a provincial board member and subcommittee member. In 2003, Ms. Fontaine was a task force member and contributor to the Assembly of First Nations' Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to compensate for abuses in Indian Residential Schools. She has also acted as a legal consultant to the Toronto law firm Thomson, Rogers for the plaintiffs and their counseling in the Baxter National Residential School Class Action as well as to Mother of Red Nations Women's Council in Manitoba on cultural harm issues.

Pierre Foucher worked as a lawyer in a private practice and as a researcher for the federal government before becoming a full professor in the Faculty of Law at the *Université de Moncton*. In addition to serving as a guest speaker and visiting professor across Canada and abroad, Mr. Foucher has considerable experience as a legal advisor, analyst and consultant. He also is the author of multiple works on the rights of linguistic minorities, human rights and freedoms and public

law. Since 2008, he has been a full professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, teaching courses on language rights in common law and civil law. He is also an associate researcher at the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute at the University of Ottawa. Furthermore, he is the acting director of the new Language Rights Support Program managed by the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Yves Frenette is a history professor and director of the Centre for Research on French Canadian Culture at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Frenette is a specialist on North American French-speaking communities. He has published two books and more than sixty academic chapters and articles. He has also directed or co-directed ten collective works. Dr. Frenette is currently the director of the award-winning *Francophonie canadienne : identités culturelles* website. His next book, *Brève Histoire illustrée de l'Acadie*, is set for release in 2010 by *Éditions de la Grande Marée*.

Dr. Raymond-M. Hébert was a full professor of political science and Canadian studies at the *Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface* from 1980 until his retirement in 2009. He published numerous articles on linguistic minorities in Canada as well as on constitutional questions in this field. He is well known in Canada as a political analyst and media commentator in both official languages. He is a former president of the Association for Canadian Studies (1998-2000) and taught at the Center for Canadian studies at the University of Washington (Seattle) for several years. Mr. Hébert was appointed to a number of governmental commissions, notably to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission in Manitoba (1994 and 2004 exercises) and to the National Parole Board (2004-2007). Prior to his teaching career, Mr. Hébert was the first assistant deputy minister in charge of the Manitoba *Bureau de l'éducation française* (1976-1979).

Dr. Rodrigue Landry is the executive director of the Canadian Institute of Research on Linguistic Minorities. Dr. Landry possesses considerable expertise in the field of vitality of ethno-linguistic minorities. Indeed, he has conducted multiple research projects on francophone

minorities in every Canadian province as well as in the United States and has also studied the auto-determinant factors in the fight to maintain the French language and francophone identity in minority contexts. His multiple publications and research reports deal with ethno-linguistic vitality, education in minority situations, bilingualism, and learning in school contexts. Dr. Landry was called upon as an expert witness in the Caron case.

Dr. François Larocque is a lawyer, assistant professor and director of the national program in common law at the University of Ottawa. His main fields of interest are philosophy of law, Canadian legal history, civil liability, human rights and international law. He is presently at the helm of an original research project, with Mark Power, on the constitutional protection of language rights of French-speaking minority communities in western Canada. Their research exposes new considerations that subtend the constitutional compact that was settled between the imperial government, the Dominion of Canada and the inhabitants of Rupert's Land.

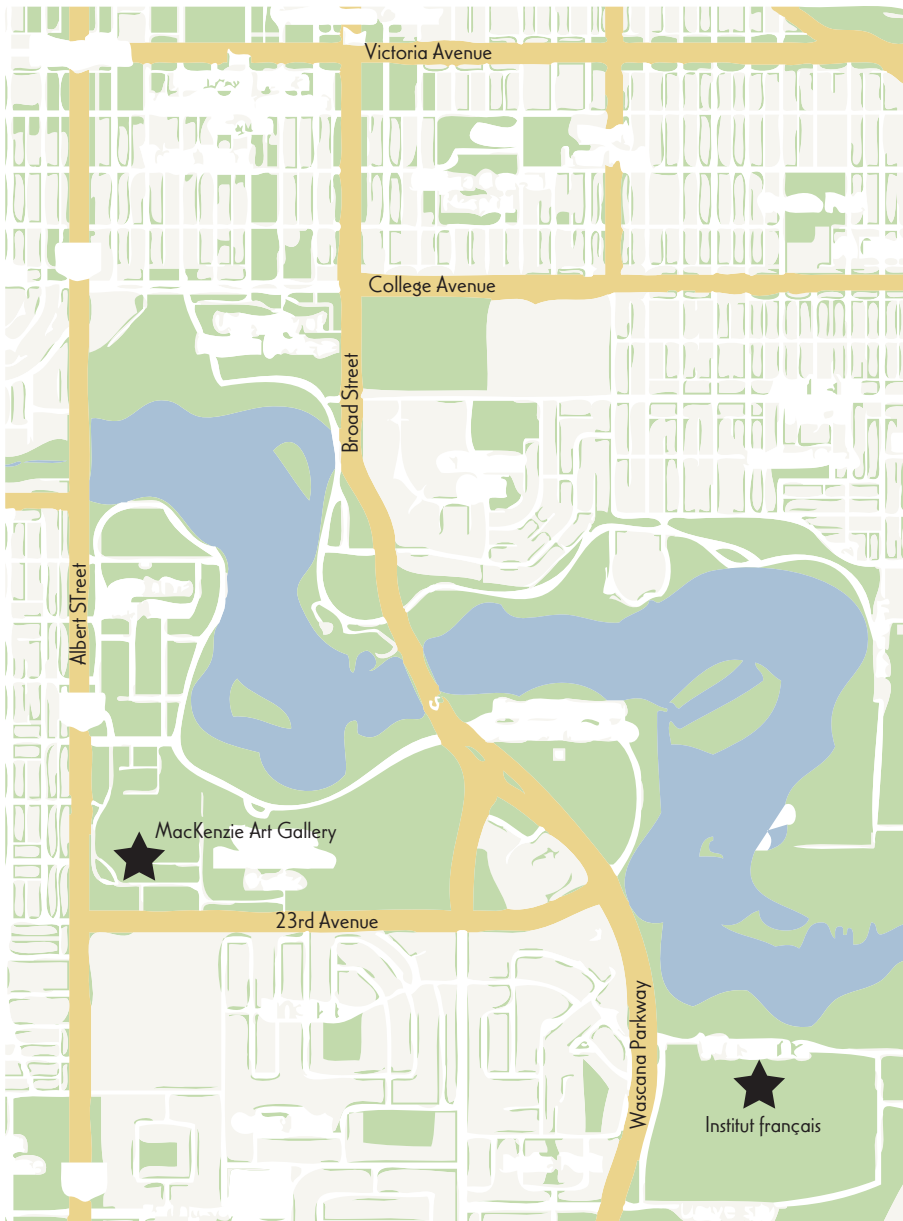
Roger J. F. Lepage is a partner at Balfour Moss LLP. He practices in the area of general litigation. His 30 years of experience covers a wide variety of fields such as constitutional law, administrative law, labour and employment law, family law, human rights law, penal law and health law. He offers services in both French and English. Mr. Lepage prepared multiple articles and lectures in his areas of expertise, notably as concerns language rights and the regulation of health professionals. Roger Lepage is very committed to the Fransaskois community. Indeed, he acts in many of the community's provincial organizations and is the vice-president of the *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan*. His commitment to the "fait français" transcends provincial borders. In fact, Mr. Lepage has pleaded many francophone cases in other Canadian jurisdictions including the North-West Territories, the Yukon, Manitoba, Ontario and has appeared on several occasions before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Denis Perreaux joined the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA)* in 2004 and has served as its executive director since March 2008. Born in Saskatchewan, Mr. Perreaux holds an M.A. on the history of the Prairies' francophone population. In addition to being

very active in community development, Mr. Perreux possesses considerable experience in strategic planning, in historical and political research, as well as in public affairs analysis.

Mark Power is an assistant professor in the common law section of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa. Before beginning his career, Mr. Power was a clerk for the Honorable Judge Michel Bastarache at the Supreme Court of Canada. His fields of interest are the following: litigation, constitutional law, language rights, education rights and administrative law. With Michel Doucet and François Larocque, he represented the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* in the Caron case.

Rénauld Rémillard is the executive director of the *Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law*. Before occupying this position, Mr. Rémillard was executive director of the *Association des juristes d'expression française du Manitoba*. He also worked as a legal researcher for the *Institut Joseph-Dubuc* from 1990 to 1994. Mr. Rémillard worked as director of legal and political affairs at the *Société franco-manitobaine* from 1994 to 1998 and was director of the language rights component of the Court Challenges Program of Canada from 1998 to 2000. As a lawyer, Rémillard argues for access to justice for francophone and Acadian communities in order to ensure that they can express themselves in the language of their choice.



- Parking is free of charge at the University of Regina, lot 3M
- Mackenzie Art Gallery, 3475 Albert Street, Regina

**We express our deepest appreciation
to the Department of Justice Canada and
Canadian Heritage for their financial support**



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

to our collaborators as well as to our sponsors
and



ICI AVEC VOUS