

CLARE BECKTON

Deputy Head

Status of Women Canada

In April 2007, Clare Beckton was appointed Deputy Head at Status of Women Canada, the federal department responsible for the coordination of policy on the status of women and the administration of related programs.

Ms. Beckton received her LLB and her BA from the University of Saskatchewan and spent an LLM year at the University of Illinois. In 2005, as a Fulbright Scholar, she obtained an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, with a focus on leadership. In recognition of academic excellence, and of an exceptional contribution to public service and leadership, she was also awarded the Littauer Fellowship. In March 2008, Ms. Beckton was appointed to the Women's Leadership Board at the Kennedy School of Government and in June 2008 she was awarded the Woman of the Year Award by the Federated Press during their 4th Annual Women & Leadership Summit, for exceptional achievement and outstanding leadership by a Canadian woman.

Clare taught law as Dalhousie Law School in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 1975 to 1984, and in that capacity published a number of articles and several books. In 1984, she joined the Human Rights Law Section in the Department of Justice. In 1988, she assumed the position of General Counsel with the RCMP Legal Services, and, in 1992, subsequently assumed the role of General Counsel, Department of Fisheries and Oceans. In 1996, Ms. Beckton became Senior General Counsel with Human Resources Development Legal Services until her appointment as Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Justice. She led the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio from 1998 until June 2004 and, following her year at Harvard she co-led, with the Aboriginal Leadership Institute and other partners, a multi-sectoral Aboriginal Leadership Initiative.

Ms. Beckton is the author of a book on *The Media and the Law in Canada*, as well as of numerous articles on the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. She is an acknowledged expert in the domain of equality rights and in respect of Aboriginal policy issues, she has served as a presenter on diverse topics for domestic and international conferences and symposia, as well as an active contributor to various executive and community-based committees.

Ms. Beckton possesses extensive knowledge and experience in leadership issues, organizational development and change management. She has constructed key partnerships with stakeholders and citizens across Canada to develop public policies, laws and regulations, and provide services and deliver programs in periods of significant change for Canadian society and the Public Service of Canada. Among these partnerships, she has led the development of an initiative with the Aboriginal Leadership Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and other partners in the public and private sectors, to find new and innovative ways of addressing the complex challenges facing Aboriginal communities in Canada.