



Following a career in Social Work, as Secretary General of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie and in the practice of law, **Bernard Richard** served as an MLA in New Brunswick from 1991 to 2003. During that time, he occupied several cabinet positions (Intergovernmental Affairs, Justice, Education and Social Policy Renewal).

In opposition, he served as Interim Leader, Caucus Chair and House Leader.

In January, 2004, Mr. Richard assumed the responsibilities of New Brunswick's 6<sup>th</sup> Ombudsman. In November 2006, Mr. Richard was appointed New Brunswick's first Child & Youth Advocate. He retired from both positions in March 2011. He has since worked on a variety of assignments as a lawyer (City of Fredericton; PEI Auditor General), consultant (NB Legislative Assembly; Canada-Newfoundland-Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board; NB Assembly of First Nations Chiefs) and mediator.

He was appointed as BC's second Representative for Children and Youth in November 2016.

He has been the recipient of several prizes and awards, most notably the Léger-Comeau Medal, the Order of Merit of l'Université de Moncton, the Merit Award of l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du NB, the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award, a life membership of the international association of French-speaking Ombudsman, the UNB Alumni Award of Distinction, the Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award, appointment as a Queen's Counsel, an Honorary PHD in law from Mount Allison University and the NB Human Rights Award. He was named a Trudeau Foundation Mentor in 2012.

He has worked with a number of non-profit organizations focused on the rights and interests of children and youth, in particular in the area of mental health (ACCESS Canada – Open Minds; Partners for Youth; Dots NB), the plight of children in developing countries (Plan International Canada; the Working Group on the Rights of Child in Francophone Countries) and the wellbeing of Indigenous children (First Nations Children Futures Fund).

Finally, he has been a columnist with NB's only French-language daily newspaper, l'Acadie Nouvelle.