Municipal Leaders

Laurence Mawhinney President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Laurence Mawhinney was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1941 and settled with his family in Rose Bay, Nova Scotia, in 1948.

He is graduate of Sir George Williams (Concordia) and McGill universities.

First elected to Lunenburg town council in 1976, Mr. Mawhinney was elected mayor in 1979 and is now in his fifth term. As well, he has 15 years of service on school boards in Lunenburg County, seven as chairman.

In 1989-90, Mr. Mawhinney was president of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. Today, he is president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which was founded in 1937 and now represents 565 municipalities of all sizes across Canada.

Mr. Mawhinney is also a member of the Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board, appointed by the Council of Maritime Premiers. He has led training seminars for elected and appointed officials in the Atlantic provinces and has written articles on municipal parliamentary procedures.

Mr. Mawhinney and his wife, Marion, have six children.