



news release

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CANADA APPOINTS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISCUSSIONS ON FISHERIES WITH FRANCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, John Crosbie, today announced the appointment of Ottawa lawyer Roger Tassé as Canada's special representative in discussions with France on fisheries.

Now that the International Court of Arbitration has determined the boundary between Canada and France off the south coast of Newfoundland, the two countries will be meeting to discuss the implications of the decision on the management of fisheries resources and related fisheries issues. A bilateral meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Mr. Tassé served as special advisor to the Government of Canada during the 1987-89 discussions with France that led to the March 1989 agreements referring the disputed boundary to arbitration.

Mr. Tassé retired from the federal public service in 1985 to work in the private sector.

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MR. ROGER TASSÉ

A Montreal native and member of both the Quebec and Ontario bars, Mr. Tassé has served in the federal public service holding, among others, the positions of Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General of Canada. As the federal government's senior law officer, he was closely involved in all the federal-provincial discussions from 1979 to 1982 that led to the patriation of the Canadian constitution. He was also involved in two First Ministers Constitutional Conferences on native rights in the early 1980s, and he played a substantial role in the development of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the federal human rights legislation.

Mr. Tassé served as a member of the Citizen's Forum on Canada's Future, also known as the Spicer Commission, and as a constitutional advisor to the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee on a Renewed Canada. He is a special advisor to the Government of Canada in the current multilateral discussions on the Canadian constitution.

He was made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1981.