



# communiqué

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## APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today the appointments of Richmond Olson and Charles Bédard as Commissioners of the International Joint Commission.

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Mr. Richmond Olson was born in Western Canada. Mr. Olson graduated from the University of Alberta with the degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Law. He was included in the Queen's Honours List in 1968.

After a number of years as Legislative Counsel to the Northwest Territories Council, Mr. Olson joined the Federal Department of Justice where he was the Chief Legal Advisor to the Head of the Canadian Delegation during the negotiations for the Columbia River Basin Treaty.

Mr. Olson resigned from the Department after serving as General Counsel in 1976, and established the Waverley Institute for the Study of General Theory.

He has participated in the work of many organizations including the Canadian Bar Association, the Law Society of Alberta, the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome, the Consumers' Association of Canada and the International Council on Social Welfare.

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Mr. Charles Bédard, 55, was born in Quebec City. Mr. Bédard graduated from Laval University and was admitted to the Quebec Bar Association in 1948. He is also the holder of a "Doctorat en Droit" from the University of Paris.

He was in private practice in Quebec City and acted as Legal Counsel for the Government of the Province of Quebec in 1952-53. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1953 and has served in Los Angeles, Hanoi, Port-au-Prince and Brussels. He also served as Canadian representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal and has held senior positions with the Department in Ottawa. Until his new appointment, he was Consul General in Bordeaux, France.

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The International Joint Commission deals with the use, obstruction and diversion of boundary waters and rivers crossing the boundary between Canada and the United States. Structures which would increase the levels of waters at the boundary require the prior approval of the Commission before work can proceed. In addition, the Commission carries out extensive investigations on questions arising between the Canadian and United States governments along the "common frontier", and reports its findings, with recommendations, to the two governments. It is also the co-ordinating agency for activities under the 1978 Canada-U.S. Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and maintains continuing surveillance of air quality along the boundary.