

BETTY ANN POTTRUFF, Q.C.

Senior Advisor to ADM of Innovation Ministry of Justice Government of Saskatchewan

Betty Ann Pottruff is a lawyer and advisor at the Ministry of Justice who has contributed extensively to a broad range of social justice initiatives through the public service. From 1987 to 2003, Betty Ann served as the Director of the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, and from 2003 to 2014, she served as its Executive Director. She then went on to act as Children's Counsel for Saskatchewan (2014-2018) after developing a Saskatchewan approach to providing counsel for children involved in child protection proceedings. The program was implemented in December 2014 with a trained roster of lawyers providing services across the province. By the end of March 2016, legal counsel had been appointed to represent 182 children.

Earlier in her career, in 1992, Betty Ann served as a committee member and co-author of the Saskatchewan Indian and Metis Justice Review Committee Reports. In 1993-95, she chaired the Steering Committee which negotiated the reinstatement of the Aboriginal Courtworker Program. In 1996-97 and 1997-98, Betty Ann led the provincial justice team in tripartite negotiations with First Nations and Justice Canada for Aboriginal Justice Projects. Betty Ann was instrumental in developing the response to the First Nations and Metis Peoples and Justice Reform Commission report of 2004.

Betty Ann has had an ongoing role in working with Aboriginal, non-government and government agencies to develop a provincial approach to addressing interpersonal violence and abuse, particularly as it involves Aboriginal women and children. She has been involved in the creation of the Regina Drug Treatment Court, Aboriginal Justice programs, Victims Services Programs, Maintenance Enforcement Program, and the therapeutic courts in Saskatchewan, including three domestic violence courts. She has been the co-chair of the Interministerial Committee on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse and the Interministerial Steering Committee on Child Sexual Abuse for more than 10 years.

In 2011, Betty Ann won, with the members of the Committee, the Premiers Award for Innovation for leadership of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons (PPMCP). From 2006 to 2015, she was the co-chair from the Ministry of Justice (Attorney General) of the PPCMP. And in 2015, she was involved in consultations with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners on how to address violence against Indigenous women and girls. In June and October, 2017, she was a part of broader consultations on the development of a Saskatchewan approach to preventing and reducing interpersonal violence and abuse.

Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Location/Phase: Part II: Calgary

Witness: Betty Ann Pottruff

Submitted by: Barbara Mysko, SK

Add'l info: P02P01P0101

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Initials

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