

Plenary Presentation



Saturday April 27 12:30 pm

Justice David Hancock

Family and Youth Court – Working us out of Work!

Strengthen your commitment as an engaged parent! Engaged parents create a nurturing space for a child's growth, offering guidance and positive role models to curb delinquency and boost resilience.

Justice Dave Hancock shares his insights rooted in legal, government and education experience, describing how family engagement empowers parents, shaping positive outcomes and steering kids away from the justice system. Engaged parents know and understand that their most important duty is to the best interest of the child, but sometimes forget that means keeping them out of and away from the family disputes. Brain research clearly shows the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on a child's development. Learn how you can help to reduce the work of the Family and Youth Court, through understanding how adversarial family breakdowns and Family Law situations can unnecessarily impact children, often causing behaviours that result in those children entering the justice system.

Justice David Hancock brings with him a wealth of experience in both the legal and political fields as well as a strong focus on community building. His early years were in small indigenous communities in northern BC (Hazelton) and Alberta (Fort Vermilion) where his father served as store manager for the Hudson's Bay Company (the last fur-trader/factor buying fur in the store) and his Mother taught school.

After graduating from High School in La Crete, Alberta his educational journey includes a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Economics, and History (1976) and a Bachelor of Laws (1979) both from the University of Alberta. Justice Hancock also received an Honorary Bachelor of Applied Science from Olds College (2006), an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Alberta and a Doctor of Laws from Athabasca University (both in 2015).

In addition to his experience in law practicing with Matheson & Company for 18 years, Justice Hancock served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the Edmonton-Whitemud constituency from 1997 to 2014.

During his time in office, Justice Hancock held many ministerial positions including Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Justice (Attorney General and Solicitor General), Advanced Education, Health and Wellness, Education, Human Services, Innovation and Advanced Education as well as Deputy Premier.

In different portfolios Dave was proud to lead major policy developments including the:

- Aboriginal Policy Framework (Alberta government dealing with First Nations and Indigenous peoples on a Government-to-Government Basis)
- Government of Alberta 20 Year Strategic Plan – Today's Opportunities, Tomorrow's Promise – Unleashing Innovation, Leading in Learning, Competing in a Global Marketplace & Making Alberta the Best Place to Live, Work and Visit
- Access to the Future Act
- A Learning Alberta – Advancing Education (Adult and Postsecondary)
- Setting the Direction – Meeting the educational needs of students with disabilities and diverse needs
- Inspiring Education - What does an educated Albertan look like 30 years from now?
- Alberta's Social Policy Framework
- Alberta's Children First Act

He actively participated in committees such as Agenda and Priorities and Treasury Board within the Executive Council. Also, he served as the vice chair or chair of the Legislation Review Committee and was Government House Leader for most of his time in the Assembly. He capped his time in government serving as Alberta's 15th Premier.

Following his political career, Justice Hancock worked as counsel at Dentons Edmonton, on their Government Affairs and Public Policy team. His areas of interest included Innovation and Technology, International Trade for Alberta's small and medium-sized businesses, Education, and Aboriginal and First Nation economic opportunities.

Dave has also served on many governance boards, both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, primarily in the enumerated fields, including Classroom Connections Learning Foundation, First Nations Education Fund, BioNuetra Global Inc., Serious Labs Inc., and TEC Edmonton.

On December 5, 2017, Justice Hancock was appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta (now known as the Alberta Court of Justice). His journey through the political and judicial realms reflects an unwavering commitment to public service and access to justice.