

**Remarks of Chief Justice Deborah E. Fry  
On the passing of Judge William John Adams Baker  
A Retired Judge of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Court of Appeal, Duckworth St., St. John's, NL**

**The Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador:**

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the passing of Judge William John Adams (Bill) Baker, a retired judge of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador and former member of the Law Society who passed away on February 23, 2020 at the age of 78. Judge Baker was born on July 30, 1941 in Botwood, Newfoundland and Labrador.

After a short but varied career in the military, finance and municipal civil service, Judge Baker, accompanied by his young family, went back to university and completed an undergraduate and law degree in six years, graduating from Queen's University Faculty of Law in Kingston, Ontario. He articulated with the Department of Justice, was called to the Bar on December 14, 1979, and entered on the Barrister's Roll as # 477.

Judge Baker was appointed to the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1980 and spent the next 26 years as a respected senior criminal judge of that court until his retirement in 2006. He served in Corner Brook, Grand Bank, Holyrood and St. John's along with regular circuit courts all over Newfoundland and Labrador. He served as President of the Newfoundland Provincial Court Judges Association during his tenure on the bench.

One of Judge Baker's colleagues described him as "a judge who exhibited all of the very best attributes a judge could ever have. Fairness, compassion, attentiveness and a keen and appreciative knowledge of the law. The respect he had from the Bar was exemplary." Many who knew him, either professionally or personally, described him as a kind, just, and fair person who always sought to do what he considered to be the right thing. Many remarked on his sense of humour, his sharp wit and the ability to cut through the fog and get to the facts. The staff of the Provincial Court enjoyed working with Judge Baker and commented on his warm smile, friendly demeanor and the time he took to engage with them.

Judge Baker was an avid angler since childhood. He was never more content and at peace than when he was out in his canoe, on a pond, quietly fishing by himself. As an accomplished outdoorsman, he introduced friends to cod fishing out of Botwood, duck hunting off Sandy Point Road and ice fishing in the winter season.

Most importantly, Judge Baker's life revolved around his family. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who rejoiced in the happiness and successes of his wife, children and grandchildren. Their accomplishments were his greatest joy. He will be remembered fondly by his wife of 55 years, Pamela Faulkner Baker, his daughters, Lisa Baker (Martin LeDrew) and Lori Baker. His grandchildren, Fiona Landells, Elizabeth Landells and Frankie Leigh will always

remember with great joy their times with “Poppy Baker.” His brothers, sisters, extended family and a wide circle of friends and colleagues will also mourn the loss of Judge Baker.

On behalf of my colleagues at the Court of Appeal, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family on their loss of Judge William Adams John (Bill) Baker. The Bench and the Bar will miss him.