

Press release # 8

Commission of inquiry on the de la Concorde overpass

COMMISSIONERS' BIOGRAPHIES

(Montreal, October 18th, 2007)

Pierre Marc Johnson, *President*

Pierre Marc Johnson (B.A., LL.L, MD, PhD (hc) FRSC), serves as senior counsel at Heenan Blaikie, a Montréal law firm. He is a physician (Université de Sherbrooke) and lawyer (Université de Montréal).

A past Premier of Québec, he was also successively Minister of Labour & Manpower, Social Affairs, Justice, and Intergovernmental Affairs as well as Attorney General.

He taught law at McGill Law School, and conducted research at the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law.

Mr. Johnson serves on the boards of public and private companies, as well as not-for-profit organizations.

He has been negotiator, mediator and advisor in international negotiations associated with, among others, the United Nations' environmental agreements and various trade agreements (chief negotiator for the Government of Québec in the softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the United States).

Pierre Marc Johnson has published numerous essays and articles on public policy, notably, on the non-commercial aspects of globalization.

Armand Couture, *Commissioner*

An engineer by training, Armand Couture began his career in Ottawa and Vancouver. He subsequently moved to Montréal where he specialized in major public projects, particularly the James Bay La Grande Complex. As representative of the SEBJ, he was one of the negotiators of the James Bay and Northern Québec agreement.

From 1967 to 1991, Armand Couture was a principal shareholder in the Lavalin Engineering Group, later SNC-Lavalin, where he held various senior management positions. From 1992 to 1996, he was president and COO of Hydro-Québec.

Mr. Couture then worked as an advisor and expert. In this capacity, he prepared the development plan for Aéroport de Montréal's Dorval Airport.

He has served and continues to serve on various boards, including Aéroport de Montréal, the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Hydro-Québec CapiTech, Hydro-Québec Industech and TM-4. In 2003, he oversaw the Bureau de transition de l'encadrement du secteur financier du Québec, consisting of five parapublic companies from the finance industry. In 2004 he chaired a work group charged with planning Services Québec. Armand Couture is a member of the Order of Canada and of the Ordre national du Québec.

Roger Nicolet, *Commissioner*

An engineering graduate from École Polytechnique fédérale de Zürich and holder of a Masters degree in applied science from École Polytechnique de Montréal, Roger Nicolet was awarded an honorary PhD from Université de Sherbrooke in 2000.

Roger Nicolet has been in private practice since 1964 and has been in charge of several major projects, including Place Bonaventure in Montréal, the CN Tower in Toronto, the Pyramide du Louvre in Paris, King Abdul-Aziz University in Djedda, Saudi Arabia, and the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec in Montréal.

He has chaired the scientific and technical commission on dam management, the scientific and technical commission on the ice storm, and the consultation committee on improving mobility between Montréal and the South Shore. He also co-chaired the analysis committee on urban and rural RCMs.

Roger Nicolet was the president of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, chairman of the Board of Université de Sherbrooke and president of the Union des municipalités régionales de comté du Québec.

Mr. Nicolet is mayor of the municipality of Austin, warden of the Memphrémagog RCM, president of the Conférence des élus de l'Estrie and chairman of the Board of the Orford Arts Centre.

He has been awarded numerous professional distinctions and named an Officer of the Ordre national du Québec en 1998.

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Source : Commission d'enquête sur l'effondrement d'une partie du viaduc de la Concorde

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