

Retirement Gala for the Chief Justice of Manitoba, Richard Chartier

REMARKS FROM CHIEF JUDGE
MARGARET I. WIEBE •

Good Evening. I am here to bring greetings and congratulations to Chief Justice Chartier on the occasion of his retirement. My instructions are to be very brief. In fact, Chief Justice Chartier has indicated I have three minutes. You will understand his adherence to the rule of three because it has been mentioned several times today. I will do my best to respect that rule.

As many of you know, Chief Justice Chartier was a Provincial Court Judge before becoming a Justice of the Court of Appeal and then Chief Justice of Manitoba. I will share three observations about Chief Justice Chartier's time as a Provincial Court Judge, which set the foundation for him to become an excellent Chief Justice for Manitoba.

Firstly, his lived experience as a Provincial Court Judge. Chief Justice Chartier understands what it means to deliver justice in Manitoba. He understands travelling by plane, boat, or helicopter. He's driven over winter roads, stood on a tarmac in negative 35-degree weather, he's set up tables and chairs in the community centre or band office alongside the clerk and court party. Most importantly, he understands being in the community with people, where they live. Hearing the stories firsthand. These experiences gave Chief Justice Chartier important context which is required to give thoughtful and just decisions. Context to understand the lived experiences of the people involved in the criminal justice system and context to understand the importance of having equal access to justice for all

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- The Honourable Judge Margaret I. Wiebe currently serves as a Provincial Judge. She was originally appointed as a Judge of the Provincial Court on December 12, 2012. From July 10, 2016, to July 9, 2023, she also held the position of Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, demonstrating leadership and dedication to the administration of justice in Manitoba.

Manitobans. These experiences have clearly stayed with Chief Justice Chartier and have been reflected in his decisions and actions as Chief Justice.

Secondly, Chief Justice Chartier lives by certain principles and has since he was a Provincial Court Judge. Probably before. For example, differentiating good from great, understanding needs and expectations, and the importance of measuring performance and results. These principles are ever present in the world of Chief Justice Chartier, and were evident in the important work he did in the Provincial Court on the Front End Project, for which national and International awards were given. Chief Justice Chartier further exemplified his commitment to these principles with the work he did on the Chartier Report, dealing with the provision of French language rights in Manitoba. I know he has carried these principles forward to the Court of Appeal, in terms of improving decision-making time, increasing the number of hearings held, and measuring the performance of the Court of Appeal. Chief Justice Chartier even committed to doing an Annual Report, which I really consider another Chartier Report, because it is full of facts and figures and measurements of success.

Thirdly, his leadership abilities. Others have spoken about this. I will say little more than Chief Justice Chartier's leadership abilities were very evident in the Provincial Court, not only with respect to the projects I have already referred to, but in many other areas where Chief Justice Chartier saw a need to address an issue. Without being one of the Administrative Judges, he still sought to improve administrative procedures and would be in the office at 7:30AM, writing up proposals which would benefit the court and judges, as well as increase access to justice. He did this because he is genuinely interested and dedicated to the rule of law and justice. His defence of judicial independence, the need for education and a strong ethical framework within which to do our jobs is legendary. His skills of being a good listener, leading by example, doing what he says he is going to do and doing so with integrity. All of these characteristics are simply a part of him, and he has consistently and clearly applied these as a Justice of the Court of Appeal and the Chief Justice of Manitoba.

Chief Justice Chartier on behalf of the Provincial Court of Manitoba, we thank you for your service, your dedication and your wisdom throughout your illustrious career. We wish you and Liza and your family a retirement full of health, happiness, and adventure.