



Robert Watt

Robert Watt is a distinguished historian, heraldic expert, and museum professional with a lifelong commitment to preserving and celebrating Canadian heritage. In 1988, he was appointed the first Chief Herald of Canada, tasked with developing the Canadian Heraldic Authority after its patriation by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. His work shaped Canada's unique heraldic system, ensuring gender equality in symbols and integrating Indigenous cultural elements. Since 2007, he has continued his heraldic service as Rideau Herald Emeritus and has held leadership roles in heraldic organizations, including serving as President of L'Académie Internationale d'Héraldique (2015–2022) and the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (1987–1988).

Beyond heraldry, Watt has had a long and influential career in museums and archives, serving as curator and Director of the Vancouver Museum (1973–1988) and as President of the BC Museums Association (1979–1981). His deep interest in Indigenous cultures led to the publication of *People Among the People* (2019), a study of Musqueam artist Susan Point's public art. He has also contributed to public service as a Commissioner for the North Vancouver Museum and Archives (2008–2016), a Citizenship Judge (2009–2015), and a member of the Advisory Committee on Vice-Regal Appointments. Since 2011, he has volunteered as the Honorary Colonel of the 11/12 Field Ambulance unit, supporting military medical services in Vancouver.