



January 15, 2016

## **CONDOLENCES - THE HONOURABLE JUDGE RUSSELL MACKAY**

The Provincial Court of British Columbia announces with deep sadness that the Honourable Judge Russell Mackay passed away on December 22, 2015 in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

Before being appointed to the Provincial Court in 2008 Judge Mackay practised criminal and youth law for 25 years in Vancouver. He served as chair of the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia's criminal defence litigation group and as coordinator of the Lawyers Assistance Program. Judge Mackay was assigned to sit in Chilliwack and embraced that community, moving there after his appointment.

Judge Mackay served the people of British Columbia and the Provincial Court with energy, dedication, and compassion. A mentor to many people, he changed lives with his empathy, kindness and humour. He supported judicial colleagues as a member of the board of the Judicial Counselling Program, and by sharing his love of music, his commitment to wellness, and his cheerful outlook on life.

Judge Mackay kept a quote from the Dalai Lama on his desk:

"Every day, think as you wake up, today I am fortunate to be alive. I have a precious human life and I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all of my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others, to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. I am going to have kind thoughts toward others. I am not going to get angry or think badly about others. I am going to benefit others as much as I can."

It was clear to his friends and colleagues that he lived by this principle, and the inspiration he provided us will live on.

The Provincial Court extends its deepest condolences to Judge Mackay's wife and son, and their family. There will be a celebration of his life at the St. James Community Square Hall 3214 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver on Sunday February 28th, 2016 from 1:30 to 3:30pm.

Thomas J. Crabtree  
Chief Judge  
Provincial Court of British Columbia