



**Christiane Pelchat**

President, Conseil du statut de la Femme du Québec

Christiane Pelchat has been president of the Conseil du statut de la Femme du Québec since December 2006. She has worked for women's rights and good governance for over two decades.

She previously served as chief of staff to Quebec's minister of the status of women and minister of justice, as well as the federal minister of State for the status of women.

Ms. Pelchat has solid experience in promoting human rights and women's rights, at both the national and international levels. She worked for international organizations in western Africa, where she honed her expertise in gender and development, and gained specialized skills in analyzing the differing needs of women and men, and in results-based management. She served as resident representative in Senegal and Niger, where she headed up teams tasked with training women and promoting their access to decision-making bodies. Among other things, she served as an expert in democracy, women's rights and good governance in missions in Guinea-Bissau, Benin, Mali, Haiti, Rwanda and Guinea-Conakry.

Ms. Pelchat graduated from the social sciences program of the University of Ottawa, and the law program of the Université de Montréal. She practised law with the firm of Fasken Martineau, in Montréal.

Ms. Pelchat was also one of the youngest women members of Quebec's National Assembly. She was elected as the MNA for Vachon in 1985, and was re-elected in 1989, when she first served as the parliamentary assistant to Quebec's minister of culture and then to its environment minister.

As a trainer, she also developed training modules for women to gain better access to decision-making bodies, as well as on decentralization, and municipal management for new representatives.

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