

## **Constance Backhouse Backgrounder**

Constance Backhouse holds a Distinguished University Chair and a University Research Chair at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. She became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2004, has been a Member of the RSC Council since 2010, and was recently elected as President of the Academy of Social Sciences. From 2010-11, she chaired the RSC's Task Force on Diversity, and has served as Chair of its Committee on Equity and Diversity since 2011.

Professor Backhouse was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2008 and the Order of Ontario in 2010, and awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Her other awards include the Governor General's Person's Medal in 2013, SSHRC Gold Medal in 2011, the Killam Prize for Social Sciences in 2008, the Trudeau Fellowship in 2006, the Jules and Gabrielle Léger Fellowship in 2006, the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Law in 2006, the Bora Laskin Human Rights Fellowship in 1999, and the Law Society Medal in 1998.

She has extensive adjudication and mediation experience, serving as an adjudicator for the Indian Residential Schools Compensation Hearings, and as an adjudicator for Professional Disciplinary Hearings at the Law Society of Upper Canada, among others.

Professor Backhouse has a long-standing background in issues of gender equality. She was the co-author of the first book on sexual harassment published in Canada (1979). She was the Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Ottawa, and has served on the boards of the Women's Education and Research Foundation of Ontario, the Ontario Justice Education Network, the London Sexual Assault Centre, and the London Battered Women's Legal Clinic.

Professor Backhouse's prize-winning books on the history of law, women, and race have been awarded the David W. Mundell Medal in 2011, the Canadian Law & Society Association Book Prize in 2009, the Joseph Brant Award in 2001, and the Willard Hurst Prize in American Legal History in 1992.