



Press Release – Retirement – Peter W. Gurnham, Q.C. – Chair – Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

The Chair of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, Peter W. Gurnham, Q.C., will be retiring from the Board effective February 28, 2022.

Mr. Gurnham was appointed as a full-time Member on June 5, 2003, and to the position of Chair on October 23, 2004. Prior to being appointed to the Board, he practiced law with a predecessor firm of Cox & Palmer, serving as its Managing Partner for eight years.

“It has been my privilege to serve on the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board over the last 18 years,” said Mr. Gurnham.

During his tenure at the Board, several major initiatives were introduced including:

- Enhancing public access to the Board’s proceedings by focussing on the “open courts” principle, arranging for appointment of Consumer and Small Business Advocates, and regularly opening hearings to broadcast media.
- Adopting the Ethical Principles for Judges issued by the Canadian Judicial Council as a guide for conduct of Board Members.
- Introducing electronic filing of documents, electronic case management, decision writing deadlines, and making evidence and other documents easily available via the Board’s website.
- Improving communications and engagement with parties and stakeholders using the Board’s services, including adopting plain language in decisions.

Mr. Gurnham is a member of the Nova Scotia Barrister’s Society, the Canadian Bar Association, the Energy Bar Association, the Canadian Association of Members of Public Utility Tribunals (CAMPUT), and the National Association of Public Utility Commissioners (US). He is a former chair of CAMPUT. The Canadian Energy Law Forum awarded him an Energy Bear in 2013 which is awarded annually to two individuals in Canada who have made substantial lifetime contributions to the field of energy regulation, law and policy.

Mr. Gurnham has been involved with a number of professional and various charitable organizations including Symphony Nova Scotia, Scouts Canada, the United Way, and the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society. He is frequent speaker and lecturer on energy and regulatory matters.

Background Information:

- Members of the Board are appointed in accordance with the *Guidelines to Ensure Appointments Based on Merit*. The process established by the Guidelines mirrors the process for appointing Provincial Court judges. A copy of the guidelines can be found at:
<https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/about/appointment-info>

- The *Utility and Review Board Act* allows for a minimum of eight full-time Members and a maximum of ten. There are currently eight full-time members. Full-time Members are appointed until reaching 70 years of age. The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed from the full-time members of the Board. The *Act* also allows for up to eight part-time Members. There are currently no part-time Members.
- General information on appointments, conduct, and remuneration of Members is available on the Board's website at: <https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/about/appointment-info>
- Information on current Board Members is available at: <https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/about/member-biographies>
- Information on the Board's current mandates can be found at: <https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/mandates>

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