

Colin Robertson

A former Canadian diplomat, Colin Robertson is the Senior Advisor to Dentons LLP and works with the Canadian Council of Chief Executives. He is the Vice President and a Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, as well as an Executive Fellow at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy. He is an Honorary Captain (Royal Canadian Navy) assigned to the Strategic Communications Directorate. He is chair of the board of Canada World Youth.

Living in Ottawa, Mr. Robertson writes and speaks on international affairs. He writes a regular column for the World Insider section of *the Globe and Mail*. In 2012 and 2013, *Embassy Magazine* included him in their "Top Eighty Influencing Canadian foreign policy".

Mr. Robertson sits on the boards of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, North American Research Partnership and the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Ottawa. He is a past president of the Canadian International Council's National Capital Branch. Mr. Robertson is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University, a former member of Carleton's President's Advisory Council, as well as a current member of the NPSIA Advisory Council. He is the honorary chair of the Canada Arizona Business Council. He is a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, the Retired Heads of Mission Association.

A career foreign service officer from 1977-2010, Mr. Robertson served as first Head of the Advocacy Secretariat and Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Washington and Consul General in Los Angeles. Previous assignments include serving as a Consul and Counsellor in Hong Kong, as well as in New York at the UN and Consulate General. In his final assignment he directed a project at Carleton University's Centre for Trade Policy and Law with the support of the Federal and Provincial Governments and the private sector on Canada-U.S. Engagement. As a member of the team that negotiated the Canada-U.S. FTA and NAFTA, he is the co-author of *Decision at Midnight: The Inside Story of the Canada-U.S. FTA (1996)*. He is also the co-editor of *Diplomacy in the Digital Age: Essays in honour of Ambassador Allan Gotlieb (2011)*. He has taught at Carleton University, Queen's University Public Executive Program and the Canada School of Public Service. He served as president of the Historica Foundation. He was editor of *bout de papier: Canada's Journal of Foreign Service and Diplomacy* and president of the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers.

Mr. Robertson was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), the Alberta Centennial Medal (2005), the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal (2006), the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association 'Friend of the Industry' (2004) and the distinguished alumnus award from the University of Manitoba (2004). Mr. Robertson was also given the "Hot Potato Award" for helping to increase collaboration between U.S. and Canada organizations and stakeholders at the 2012 Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Summi.

His smartest decision was marrying his wife Maureen Boyd, a Vancouverite, former journalist and communications consultant. They have three children, Allison, Sean and Conor. Mr. Robertson reads voraciously, runs, swims, cycles and cross-country skis. A series of what Lemony Snicket would describe as 'unfortunate circumstances' have left him with low vision. This has obliged him to give up tennis, a sport he enjoyed but played badly.

Research/interests:

- 1) Canada-U.S. relations
- 2) Security and Defence
- 3) Trade Policy