

Biography
Ron Penney, Chief Commissioner and City Solicitor
City of St. John's

Ron Penney became Chief Commissioner (Administrative Head) of the City of St. John's in 1995. He joined the City in 1994 as City Solicitor.

As Chief Commissioner, Ron works with two Associate Commissioners and the Directors of the departments.

The City of St. John's has enjoyed tremendous growth over the past decade. There have been major investments made in City infrastructure, including a new convention centre and 6,000 seat stadium and waste water treatment plant as well as improvements in service delivery through such initiatives as the City's service centre, Access St. John's.

Ron worked as a lawyer in private practice in St. John's before joining the Newfoundland Department of Justice in 1975. He became Senior Legislative Counsel in the Office of the Legislative Counsel in 1978 and Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General in 1979.

In 1984 he was appointed as the Channing Fellow with the Political Science Department of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was appointed an Adjunct Professor following the completion of the fellowship. He continues to teach a course in Newfoundland public policy.

Ron rejoined the public service in 1985 and served as Deputy Minister of Public Works and Services and Deputy Minister of Health until 1989. He served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition until 1991 when he became Executive Director of the Law Society of Newfoundland. He left that position in 1994 to join the City of St. John's.

During his career with the public service Ron participated in the negotiations leading to the patriation of the constitution, the Atlantic Accord and the Hibernia project.

Ron acted as Chair of the organizing committee for the CAMA and FCM conferences held in St. John's in 2005. He is also a member and Past President of the Newfoundland Branch of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

Ron is Secretary of the Board of St. John's Sports and Entertainment Ltd., which operates Mile One Stadium and the St. John's Convention Centre.

Ron holds a B.A. from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an LL.B. from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. He lives with his wife, Cathy, a University Professor, in St. John's and feels himself fortunate to have his son and daughter, lawyer and physiotherapist respectively, living in St. John's.

Ron is an avid tennis player, cross country skier, hiker and cyclist who enjoys all that the Newfoundland outdoors has to offer. He particularly enjoys beating much younger and less fit tennis partners!