



Society Loses Distinguished Human Rights Advocate



It is with much regret and sadness that the NIDMAR Board of Directors announces the passing of David H. Vickers, the founding Chair of NIDMAR's International Advisory Council and Chair of its lifetime Honourary Board of Directors.

In his previous role, starting with the establishment of NIDMAR in 1994, David, leading a diverse and committed group of senior executives from across Canada, Australia, Germany and the United States, played a pivotal role in establishing the key directions and priorities which are today reflected in the establishment of NIDMAR's own University and the adoption of its professional and program standards in Disability Management across 15 countries.

In recent years, with NIDMAR's educational programming reaching over 1000 students annually across the globe, we are most grateful for his lifetime commitment to Chair NIDMAR's Honourary Board of Directors which annually selects and awards a range of dedicated student scholarships.

While we owe a debt of gratitude for his unwavering commitment, wise counsel and personal leadership, this pales in comparison to the loss our society has suffered in missing the powerful voice of an advocate dedicated to creating a more equitable life for many disadvantaged citizens.

In his distinguished career, spanning from an appointment as Deputy Attorney General of British Columbia in the 1970's, continuing through a successful law practice, and concluding with his position as a Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia over the past 17 years, David always maintained his deep-seated and steadfast belief that substantive equality, social and economic participation and human dignity are a fundamental right for all segments of our society.

This values based approach has manifested itself not only through his professional career but also his many volunteer activities, whether this be for individuals with disabilities, disadvantaged societies around the globe or more recently, since his retirement from the "Bench" earlier this year, the issue of "Homelessness" in British Columbia's capital city, Victoria.

We extend our deepest condolences to David's wife Pat, who played a lifelong direct and indirect role in supporting David's vision of a more just society for all.