

Marilou McPhedran is the UN Human Rights Fellow for the Geneva Office of UNFPA, having been seconded to the UN by The University of Winnipeg, where she is a professor and the director of the Institute for International Women's Rights at Global College. Formerly the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, she served at the level of dean as the the Principal of The University of Winnipeg Global College from 2008 - July 2012. Admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 1978, named a Member of the Order of Canada in 1985 in recognition of her co-leadership in the successful campaign for stronger gender equality protections in the Canadian constitution, Prof. McPhedran has long focussed on human rights and systemic reform in Canada and internationally, having co-founded several widely recognized non-profit systemic change organizations, such as LEAF - the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, which has conducted constitutional equality test cases and interventions for over 25 years, METRAC - the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children, and the "always open" Gerstein Crisis Centre for homeless discharged psychiatric patients in Toronto. In 1997, she founded the International Women's Rights Project based on two of her intergenerational models: "evidence based advocacy" and "lived rights." As chief executive officer of a federal centre of excellence for women's health, she directed staff and programs including a cyber research network that linked women's health and human rights. In addition to providing strategic counsel to public and private sector clients, she chaired two public inquiries into the sexual abuse of patients in Ontario, co-investigated and co-authored applied research, including: the ten country pilot study to assess impact of the UN *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (The First CEDAW Impact Study, 2000)*, *What about accountability to the patient?* (2001), the *National Study on Rural, Remote and Northern Women's Health in Canada* (2003), the textbook, *Preventing Sexual Abuse: a Legal Guide for Health Care Professionals* (2004), a strategy paper for Canada's ambassador to the UN, *Engendering the 'Responsibility to Protect' Doctrine* in 2005, *Women's Constitutional Activism in South Africa and Canada* in 2009, and authored constitutional law journal articles, including: *Impact of S.15 equality rights on Canadian society: beacon or laser?* (2005), *A Truer Story: Constitutional Dialogue* (2007) and the Equality Rights chapter for western Canada's first textbook geared to university justice studies, *Pursuing Justice* (2011) as well as the *Report on Judicial Round Tables on Legal Empowerment of the Poor* (2012) for Federal Judicial Affairs Canada. A pioneer in research and advocacy to promote human rights through systemic reform in law, medicine, education, governance, she chaired the 2006 international Forum on Women's Activism in Constitutional and Democratic Reform, the 2007 Human Rights Activism 'Chains and Links' national conference at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and was the Rapporteur for a series of international judicial roundtables on legal empowerment of the poor in 2011. As a human rights educator, she designed and directed the inaugural 'Adventures in Global Citizenship' Summer Institute, an intensive university course offered annually by Global College, in cooperation with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and Rotary World Peace Partners. An associate of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, she will be a guest

professor at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica in 2013, where she will be teaching a new course (UPE 6006) in the Gender and Peacebuilding Program entitled *Advocacy and Diplomacy Skills for Building Peace and Security*.