



RBC Blue Water Project Advisory Panel



Tom Siddon,

Chair of Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and former Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Indian Affairs

Dr. Tom Siddon is a former University Professor, Professional Engineer, Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister in the Canadian Government. Currently, Dr. Siddon is the Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, and a Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. Dr. Siddon's life-long intrigue has been the confluence between emerging ecological imperatives and how to overcome the political obstacles to change.

A native of Drumheller, Alberta, Tom Siddon graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alberta in 1963. He went on to complete his M. A. Sc. and Ph. D. Degrees in acoustics, aerodynamics and aircraft noise at the University of Toronto. From 1968 to 1978 Dr. Siddon was engaged as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of British Columbia where he taught, conducted research and consulted to numerous large corporations on the subjects of aeroacoustics and environmental noise.

After serving two years as a City Councillor in Richmond, B.C., Mr. Siddon was elected Member of Parliament for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta. He was successively elected in five Federal elections between 1978 and 1993, and worked under several Prime Ministers. Tom Siddon was appointed to the Cabinet of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1984, serving continuously as Minister of Science and Technology, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and as Minister of National Defense over the next nine years. During that period, Mr. Siddon was responsible for many sensitive and challenging files including Canada's role in the US Space Station, managing fish stock quotas, eliminating contaminants, creating the world's first policy for sustainable management of fish habitat, and the resolution of historically important native land claims, including the Nunavut Settlement Agreement, and the establishment of the British Columbia Treaty Process.

Since leaving government in 1993, Dr. Siddon has remained active as an environmental consultant, lecturer and voluntary Board Member for several organizations dedicated to achieving a more sustainable way of life. He has spoken extensively on the enormous challenges of planetary climate change, especially as pertains to both global and local water supply management. This includes a flag-ship project of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council to develop a long range water management strategy for the Okanagan Basin.

Tom Siddon lives with his wife Patricia in Kaleden, B.C. They have five children and nine grandchildren.

