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INTRODUCTION: THE PACIFIC SALMON DISPUTE

Colin Picker

The Pacific Salmon dispute, which is the subject of this panel, is extremely relevant for any study of comparative federalism. As the speakers will let you know, states have played a vital role, and provinces have also wanted to play a vital role in the resolution of the Pacific Salmon dispute.

In addition, the Pacific Salmon dispute has also been a very serious issue. Unlike the fishery dispute in Minnesota or softwood lumber, we are not seeing calls to have the U.S. Coast Guard escort American fishing boats through Canadian waters. We are not seeing boats being ceased. So this has been a serious issue, which I am happy to say, I believe, at this point is resolved.

We will start off with Mr. Colson. Mr. Colson is a Juris Doctorate graduate. He is presently a partner of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae. He was a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Oceans for the Department of State and was also appointed as the Pacific Salmon Commissioner between 1986 and 1984.

Next, we will have Mr. McRae, presently Professor of Business and Trade Law at the University of Ottawa. Mr. McRae is an arbitrator and litigator and negotiator in addition to being a Professor of law. He has served on Canada/U.S. Free Trade Agreement Chapter 18 and 19 panels. He served on the first Chapter 20 Panel of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). However, most importantly for this panel, Mr. McRae was appointed to be the Chief Negotiator in the final years of the negotiation on resolution of the Pacific Salmon, chief negotiator for the Canadians, and it is in that respect he will share some words of wisdom with us.

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