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News Service

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TANNER ELTON IS NAMED DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

- - - Two New Assistant Deputies Appointed

Premier Howard Pawley has announced the appointment of a new Deputy Attorney-General and two new Assistant Deputies Attorney-General.

This announcement follows the April 30 retirement of former Deputy Attorney-General Gordon E. Pilkey, Q.C., and the elevation of former Assistant Deputy Attorney-General Gilbert R. Goodman, Q.C., to the Court of Queen's Bench on April 19. A national competition was subsequently held to seek applications for these vacated posts.

Selected for the post of Deputy Attorney-General is Tanner F.D. Elton of Ottawa, Ontario. Mr. Elton, who has been with the federal civil service for the past 10 years, leaves his current post as senior policy advisor to the Deputy Solicitor General to come to Manitoba. Prior to assuming his last post in 1983, Mr. Elton was Acting Assistant Deputy Solicitor General, Policy. From 1978 to 1982 he was the Director of Criminal Justice Policy, Ministry of the Solicitor General. From 1975 to 1978 he was Director and Co-ordinator of Research for the Law Reform Commission of Canada and for two years prior to that worked as a consultant to the same Commission.

Mr. Elton has his LL.B. degree from the University of British Columbia and his LL.M. from the Université de Montreal. He is currently a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada and has been active in teaching law at the law faculties of McGill, Université de Montreal, Ottawa University and at the law department of Carleton University, Ottawa.

In his most recent position Mr. Elton played a prominent role in the implementation of the new Young Offenders Act. He has considerable experience in policy development, particularly in the area of criminal law.

In welcoming Mr. Elton to Manitoba, Mr. Pawley stated that his administrative experience and his expertise in matters of law and policy in the criminal justice field will be a great asset to the province.

"The responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department has changed considerably from its original focus on criminal law enforcement," Attorney-General Roland Penner explained, "and to account for the increased scope of the department's activities we have now designated two Assistant Deputy Attorney-General positions."

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Appointed are:

. John P. Guy, Director of Criminal Prosecutions, to the new post of Assistant Deputy, Criminal Justice and Police Services.

. Norman Larsen, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba, to the post of Assistant Deputy (Justice), with immediate responsibility for such departmental activities as Legal Aid Manitoba, the Human Rights Commission and the Law Reform Commission.

Mr. Guy, a native of Winnipeg and newly-elected president of the Law Society of Manitoba, graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.A. in 1965 and received his LL.B. from the Manitoba Law School in 1968. He articulated with the firm of Walsh, Micay of Winnipeg in 1968-69 and was called to the bar in June, 1969. He joined the Attorney-General's Department as a Crown Prosecutor in July, 1969, and served in that capacity until promoted to Director of Criminal Prosecutions in January, 1980.

Mr. Larsen, born in Moose Jaw, graduated from the University of Winnipeg (United College) with a B.A. in 1957. He entered Law School in Winnipeg in 1957 and completed two years before taking time to travel abroad. From 1962 to 1966 he taught high school in Winnipeg. He returned to Law School in 1966, graduating with his LL.B. in 1968. After being called to the bar in 1969 he entered private practice.

In 1972 he joined Legal Aid Manitoba as a senior attorney and in 1974 became Director of the Research and Education Department for the same agency. In 1977 he was promoted to Executive Director of Legal Aid where he remained until 1979 when he left to take postgraduate work at Harvard University.

He received his LL.M. from Harvard in 1980 and for a short time thereafter worked as Director of Legal Education for the Law Society of Manitoba. From there he moved to his present post with the Faculty of Law.

In addition to his extensive experience with Legal Aid, Mr. Larsen has recently chaired an inter-departmental committee planning the implementation of the Young Offenders Act. He has long been a proponent of public legal education programs and is an active writer of law articles for the lay person.

"I am extremely pleased with the high calibre of candidates who sought the positions within my department," said Mr. Penner. "I look forward to working with the people selected and to their valuable input as the many positive programs and services of the department continue to evolve."