

Eugene J. Creighton, QC

Eugene J. Creighton, QC, *Aakaota'si* (Owns Many Horses) is a member of the Kainai/Blood Tribe, of the Blackfoot Confederacy situated on the Ancestral Territory of the Blackfoot which encompasses the Treaty 7 area. He is an accomplished lawyer, retired past Provincial Court Judge and rodeo champion. During his childhood, he spent 9 years at the St. Mary's Indian Residential School.

Throughout his career, Eugene has played an integral role in advocating for and developing support services for the Blood Tribe community. His contributions include assistance in developing the Tribal Justice system on the Blood Tribe Reserve, incorporating Blood Tribe values and beliefs into adjudication and sentencing; building and being appointed as the first Chairperson of the Blood Tribe Police force in the mid-1970's; introducing various programs to assist the individuals who would be in contact with police services on the reserve; playing an integral role in creating the Kainai/Blood Tribe Board of Education and the creation of numerous corporate legal entities in support of the Tribe's economic ventures and developments.

From 1986 to 1994 Eugene was in-house counsel with Kainai/Blood Tribe. In 1994 he joined Walsh Wilkins in Calgary and in 1999, he became a partner of the firm. In 2002 the firm's name was changed to Walsh Wilkins Creighton LLP to reflect his contributions. In 2005, he was named Alberta's Aboriginal Role Model for Justice and in 2006 he received the Alumni Honour Award from the University of Alberta. In 2007, he was appointed Queen's Counsel and in 2009, Eugene was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta, Calgary Regional Criminal Division. He sat on the bench for 10 years. Walsh LLP is proud and honoured to have Eugene return to the firm following his retirement from the bench in October 2019 as an advisor and mentor to young lawyers working with Indigenous peoples and communities. Also in 2019, Eugene was inducted into the 'Indian National Finals Rodeo' Hall of Fame in Las Vegas for his contributions to Indian rodeo as a builder in North America's Indian Country. He remains a Commissioner with the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

The Law Society is also pleased to have Eugene as a member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee, established to collect feedback and input on the initiatives of the Law Society to advance the goals of truth and reconciliation, particularly surrounding access to justice for Indigenous peoples and cultural competency development for lawyers.

