

H24263 John Scott Cowan, BSc, MSc, PhD, DMilSc

John Scott Cowan is a graduate of Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, earning a B.Sc.(Math and Physics), and M.Sc. and PhD (Physiology). After a two year postdoc at Laval University, he joined the physiology department at the University of Ottawa (1971), and later chaired the department (1979-86). He was President of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (1980), and of the Canadian Physiological Society (1982). He served 5 years on the MRC Program Grants Committee. From 1971-1989 he held over \$2,000,000 of research grants and contracts.

After 1975 he was heavily involved in labour relations, including some arbitration work. In 1986, he joined the central administration of the University of Ottawa, serving (1987-1992) as the first Vice-rector (Resources and Planning). As Advisor to the Rector (1992-1995), he also acted as Senior Advisor on Labour Relations to AUCC, directly advised 25 Universities, negotiated a number of collective agreements with faculty across Canada, conducted an enquiry into the Fabrikant case at Concordia (1994), and wrote the implementation plan for the restructuring of Faculties of Education in Nova Scotia (adopted 1995). In 1998 he mediated a dispute between the University of Zimbabwe and the Government which had closed the university for five months. He taught the Labour Relations component of the Senior University Administrators Course (SUAC) in Banff (1990-94), and has also taught short courses for department heads and chairs. In 1992-1993 he was President of the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO).

During 1995-1999 he was Vice-Principal (Operations and Finance) at Queen's University. In 1995, he sat on the arbitration board that resolved the first collective agreement for faculty at RMC. Still active in labour relations, he has now negotiated 30 university collective agreements, and recently taught industrial/labour relations in the RMC MBA program. He was also (1997-98) one of seven persons on the body chaired by Gen. Ramsey Withers to recommend on reforms to and future directions for RMC.

He was Principal of the Royal Military College of Canada from 1999 to 2008. From 2002 to 2008, the role of Senior Academic Advisor to the Canadian Defence Academy was added to his responsibilities. In addition, he led the Defence Science Advisory Board's (DSAB) study on Asymmetric Threat (2002) and subsequently participated in or led various other studies.

Since April 2010 he has been the Chair of the Defence Science Advisory Board of Canada, following a period of three years as Vice-Chair, and since February 2008 has been President of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute. In June 2008 he was awarded the CF Medallion for Distinguished Service. In May 2009 he was awarded the honorary degree Doctor of Military Science by RMC for his contributions to the profession of arms. In October 2009 he became Hon LCol of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment.

His enthusiasms include boating and writing. He has flown 64 aircraft types, and he is slightly hard of hearing from a few thousand hours in Harvards.

