

## **Globe and Mail**

**Letters to the Editor June 17, 2014**

### **Praise for a judge**

Re PM Moves Judge From Federal Court To Quebec Court (June 14): I welcome Robert Mainville's appointment to the Quebec Court of Appeal. He represented the Cree Nation and numerous other aboriginal nations in Quebec for most of his career as a lawyer.

In the mid-1970s, few lawyers would have taken the professional risks he did and made the sacrifices required to do the job properly. He notably fought with the Crees to successfully stop the massive Great Whale hydroelectric project proposed by Hydro Quebec. He negotiated the historic *Paix des braves* agreement between the Cree Nation and the Quebec government; the pact has allowed us to establish a peaceful, successful new relationship with both Quebec and Canada.

Judge Mainville's professional profile is not one that is concordant with the conservative policies of the Harper government. It is therefore a testament to the high opinion held by all who truly know him that he was appointed by that government to the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal and now the Quebec Court of Appeal.

Some people are simply respected for what they have accomplished and who they are.

Few aboriginal lawyers and non-aboriginals who have defended First Nations have been appointed to the courts, none to the Supreme Court of Canada. Should Judge Mainville some day be appointed to the highest court in the land, I would applaud this.

*Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief, Cree Nation of Quebec (Eeyou Istchee); former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations*