

Ron MacDonald, KC, is a graduate of St. F.X. (1981, BA Hon, First Class), and Dalhousie Law School (1984). He is recently retired from the law, having practiced for 39 years.

Ron began his career in Halifax, N.S., as a defence lawyer for six years, and then worked 20 years as a Crown Attorney (Prosecutor) in his hometown of Antigonish. His last three years as a Crown saw Ron seconded to the Nova Scotia Minister of Justice's office to serve as the Criminal Law Policy Advisor. In 2011, Ron was appointed as the first Director of the Nova Scotia Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT), leading that body in its criminal investigation of police incidents that led to serious harm or death of an individual. After 6 years in that role, Ron moved to British Columbia to become the Chief Civilian Director (CCD) of the Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia, starting on October 24, 2017. He retired on his 65th birthday in May of 2024. His total term of 13 years as the head of independent criminal police oversight is the longest ever in Canada.

His community efforts included coaching a variety of sports, chairing boards, and working at the 2010 Winter Olympics. In particular, he served as Steve Konchalski's Asst. Coach from 1993 to 2004, and was a part of four AUS and one National Championship teams. He was also fortunate to be a part of the creation of the first Sexual Assault Response Team in Antigonish in the early 2000's. Ron volunteered in a large variety of positions with the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society for 28 years, including serving as president in 2005-2006, and as president of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada in 2010-11.

Ron received his King's Counsel designation in 2002. In 2007 he was awarded the National Heads of Prosecutions Humanitarian Award in recognition of his professional and community efforts. In 2015 he received the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Distinguished Service award, recognizing his significant contributions to his community and the Society. Also in 2015, he was selected to be a member of Dalhousie Law's Bertha Wilson Honour Society, to recognize his exceptional service to the legal profession and his community. In 2023 he was awarded the Canadian Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement's Mitchell – Lewis award, recognizing outstanding contribution to civilian oversight in Canada. In 2014 Ron was inducted into the St. Francis Xavier University Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 2000 National Championship Team.

Ron currently resides with his wife in Waverley, Nova Scotia, and in addition to a few volunteer projects, he focuses his energy on family and writing screenplays that are intended to capture the many lessons he has learned about the world and people over the years.