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## BARBARA NICHOLSON

If you had asked **Barbara A. Williams Nicholson (B.Arch 82)** when she graduated from TUNS, would she be following a career in the public sector, the answer would have been "No." Her thoughts at the time were very much focused on pursuing a career in private practice. Following graduation she worked with Mott, Myles and Chatwin in Saint John and later joined **Monty Trenouth (B.Arch.69)** at JWM Trenouth in Fredericton. When she decided to move to the civil service in 1987, it was to gain specific experience she felt she needed before she could venture out on her own. What was originally conceived as a two- or three-year experience has resulted in 18 years in the public sector.

Barbara credits her experience at TUNS and her architectural work experience for allowing her to rise steadily through the public sector. She joined the New Brunswick public service as a Design Architect. Today, as the Executive Director of the Design and Construction Division of the Department of Supply and Services, Province of New Brunswick, she is responsible for the management of an over \$125 million annual capital building program and 45 professional and technical staff. In her position Barbara has the opportunity to influence the direction of the province's building infrastructure and to provide leadership to the multitude of issues surrounding the design, procurement and construction of government buildings. This work has been challenging and has demonstrated to Barbara the need for a higher visibility from the architectural profession in decision making roles. "It is incumbent on each of us to continually reinforce the value of our profession to society. This can be achieved through our work and also through our involvement in our communities. We should never miss an opportunity to increase public understanding of the value of architecture in our daily lives and to demonstrate how what we build reflects what we value." She has also been a supporter of the School of Architecture co-operative education program.

In 2000 Barbara was selected as one of 225 participants from across Canada to participate in the 2000 Governor General's Canadian Study Conference, modeled on the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Conference. This conference

is held once every four years and was developed to enhance leadership skills across Canada. The theme for the 2000 conference was "Building Better Communities: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders." Over the three weeks of the study conference Barbara had the opportunity to discuss a multitude of issues facing all types of communities with leaders from business, labour and community groups. Her observations from this conference reinforced her personal belief that people are most successful when they start with what they know, what they care about, and what they feel they can change.

She has been a registered member of the Architects Association of New Brunswick (AANB) since 1987 and was a member of the Council Executive, serving as Treasurer, from 1994 to 1999. She has organized two Design Awards on behalf of AANB, the most recent being the 2005 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Architecture. She is also a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and sits on the Board of Directors of the Construction Technology Centre Atlantic, an organization focused on transferring technology and brokering innovation in the AEC industry. Barbara has been an active board member of the Fredericton YMCA for the last five years. One of her most inspiring activities was as mentor to a young boy through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Barbara was the first recipient of the Herménégilde Chiasson Award for Exemplary Service on behalf of the Architects Association of New Brunswick and for Advocacy of the Architectural Profession. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, Herménégilde Chiasson, presented Barbara with the award to recognize her dedication and efforts on behalf of the profession at the Annual General Meeting in March of 2005.

Barbara would be quick to point out that her biggest accomplishment is her family; she and her husband Dan are raising three children. Their mutual objective is to instill in their children a strong sense of community and a passion for pursuing their dreams.

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