

UELAC 2025 Honorary Fellows Nomination
The Hon. Steven Lewis Point, OC, OBC



Hon. Steven Lewis Point, OC (2023), OBC (2007)

In 2007, Steven Point became the first Indigenous lieutenant-governor of British Columbia. Photo Source: (“Steven Point BC” by Tony Sprackett is licensed under CC-BY-2.0.)

Education and Legal Career

Steven Lewis Point went to the University of British Columbia’s law school and graduated with a specialty in criminal and constitutional law. He returned to Chilliwack where he established his own firm, Point and Shirley. He practised law as a partner there from 1986 to 1989.

In the 1980s, Point accepted a position with the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. Its mandate was to pursue the implementation and recognition of Indigenous [title](#) and [rights](#). He also worked with the [federal government](#)’s Department of Employment and Immigration as a refugee adjudicator. In 1991, Point began to teach law at the University of British Columbia’s Allard Law School (now Peter A. Allard School of Law). He became the Director of the First Nations Legal Studies Program, later called Indigenous Legal Studies. Point also taught Indigenous law at the [University of Saskatchewan](#).

Point returned home in 1993 to serve as manager of the Lands Department for the Stó:lō Nation. He led negotiations that resulted in the Stó:lō Nation and the Stó:lō Tribal Council forming a single organization, under his leadership. A year later, Point organized the submission of a Statement of Intent to the British Columbia Treaty Commission that specified Stó:lō rights and title. (See also [Treaties with Indigenous Peoples in Canada](#).) On 30 June 1995, Point was among seven chiefs who formed a board of directors, called the Special Chiefs Council, which saw 21 bands join the Stó:lō Nation Society. Its constitution pledged to revive and enhance Stó:lō cultural values and identity through the re-establishment of [self-government](#).

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Through Steven Point's involvement in Stó:lō longhouses and by serving on the Chilliwack [Powwow](#) committee, he promoted traditional singing and dancing.

Career as a Judge

In February 1999, Steven Point was appointed to serve as a judge in the Provincial Court of British Columbia. At the time there were only two other Indigenous judges in the BC provincial court system and only 16 in Canada.

He taught a course on Stó:lō values at the University College of the Fraser Valley (now University of the Fraser Valley), which awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2000. That year he also received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award (now [Indspire](#)).

British Columbia Treaty Commission

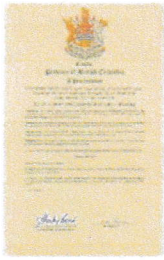
In 2005, Steven Point was appointed Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC). The BCTC was formed in 1992 by the federal and provincial governments and First Nations Summit. Its mandate is to advocate for and then facilitate treaty negotiations. It helps the three parties find solutions, allocates funding to allow First Nations to properly participate, and educates the public regarding the issues at hand. The BCTC also supports the implementation of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#) and other national and international policies concerning Indigenous peoples. Point held the position with the BCTC until he was named the province's lieutenant-governor.

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

On 1 October 2007, Steven Point was sworn in as British Columbia's 28th [lieutenant-governor](#). He was the first [Indigenous](#) person to hold the position. Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit said that Point's appointment was, "truly a milestone for First Nations people in BC, especially in these times of [reconciliation](#), recognition and relationship-building." One of Point's first duties was to give royal assent to the Maa-nulth First Nations treaty on 29 November 2007.

In 2010, The Pacific Region Branches (Chilliwack, Vancouver, Victoria, and Thompson-Okanagan) hosted the UELAC AGM & Conference, "BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS- 2010." Steven was attending activities dressed in his cowboy attire and was able to present UE certificates to several UELAC members.

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On October 11, 2012, British Columbia's UELAC Pacific Region Branches received the British Columbia Government, *Order-in-Council 903*, from Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Steven L. Point, that from this day forward.... *"the 22 July is to be recognized annually, as BC Loyalist Day in the Province of British Columbia"*.

In 2015, The Pacific Region hosted the UELAC AGM & Conference in Victoria, BC.

Each year in British Columbia, the branches honour the BC Order in Council with the recognition of **22 July**, as per the proclamation...*"Whereas Sir Alexander MacKenzie, the son of a United Empire Loyalist, was documented as being the first European to successfully cross the North American Continent, north of Mexico on 22 July 1783.*

Again in 2023, members of the association gathered for the UELAC Pacific Region Conference held in Richmond, BC. Steven L. Point OBC was our Guest Speaker at the Gala Banquet.

As an aside, Steven usually charged \$1500/appearance; however, he waived his fee as the UELAC was one of his favourite organizations. Steven went on to say that this was because of his Chilliwack high school teacher, none other, than the late SHIRLEY DARGATZ, UE, Past President of the Chilliwack Branch, for many years. He revealed to us that it was because of this gained knowledge that, *"he would be very pleased to support and be associated with the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada."*

It was following this post-conference insight when it was suggested that *The Honourable Stephen Lewis Point OC, OBC* would be a suitable candidate for consideration, as a nominee for the *UELAC Honorary Fellows Award* for his years of continuous support to the Pacific Branches and the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada.

We feel that this nominee fills all the required parameters as set out by the UELAC Board of Directors:

Honorary Fellows of the Association are expected to demonstrate the following characteristics:

✓ Show a high degree of interest in supporting the goals and mandates of the Association;

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- ✓ Have a solid base of professional and/or academic credentials that are relevant to the Association's mission;
- ✓ Have contributed to and be likely to continue to contribute to the Association by way of their talent, profession, expertise or knowledge of Loyalist history or heritage;
- ✓ Have an exceptional desire and capacity to be involved with Association events during their term as an Honorary Fellow.

Please forward Nominations to Carol Childs UE, Chair, Honorary Fellows Committee honorary.fellows.committee@uelac.org

It is therefore, with honour and admiration for a most worthy, knowledgeable, and supportive friend who has devoted much to the UELAC Pacific Region branches of British Columbia, that Carl Stymiest UE and Diane Faris UE of the UELAC Vancouver branch nominate, ***The Hon. Steven Lewis Point OC, OBC*** for the ***2025 UELAC Honorary Fellows Award***.

Following his term as LT Gov. of British Columbia

Post Lieutenant Governor Work In January 2012, Steven Point was appointed chair of the advisory committee for the safety and security of vulnerable women. A year later, Point was reappointed as a British Columbia Provincial Court judge. He served for four years until retiring in 2018. In June 2020, Point became the 19th chancellor of the University of British Columbia and the first Indigenous person to hold the position.

Point also served on several boards including those of Providence Health Care at St. Paul's Hospital and the Vancouver International Arbitration Centre. He served the Chilliwack community on the city's Safety Advisory Committee and involved himself in building a First Nations [Friendship Centre](#). Point helped the Stó:lō Nation with treaty negotiations and served as an Honorary Colonel in the 39 Service Battalion of the [Canadian Armed Forces](#).

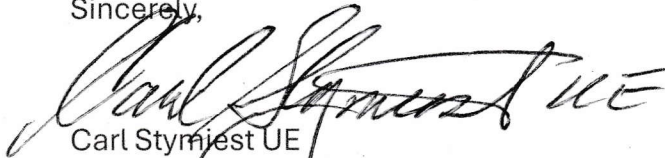
Honours and Awards

- National Aboriginal Achievement Award (now Indspire) for Law and Justice (2000).
- Queen Elizabeth II [Golden Jubilee](#) Medal (2002).
- [Order of British Columbia](#) (2007).
- Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (2007).

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- Queen Elizabeth II [Diamond Jubilee](#) Medal (2012).
- Order of Chilliwack (2016).
- Justice Institute of British Columbia Foundation Joseph H. Cohen Award (2018).
- Officer, [Order of Canada](#) (2023)

Sincerely,



Carl Stymiest UE
Vancouver Branch UELAC



Diane Faris UE
Vancouver Branch UELAC