

October 14/89

Six Nations woman to be ombudsman

By CP and Staff

TORONTO — A Six Nations woman will be Ontario's new ombudsman.

Government sources confirmed Friday that the job will go to Roberta Jamieson, the first native woman in Canada to receive a law degree.

Jamieson would take over from Eleanor Meslin, who has been holding the position temporarily since Daniel Hill retired in March.

The ombudsman's office was

set up in 1975 to investigate and remedy citizens' complaints against government ministries and agencies.

Jamieson was Indian Commissioner of Ontario until recently. She was appointed to that post in October 1985 when she was 33-years old.

Before that, she was executive assistant to the first commissioner, Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt of the Ontario Supreme Court, and a non-voting member of a special House of Commons committee on native self-government.

The commission, established in 1978, deals with native issues that involve both the federal and provincial governments.

Contacted this morning, the graduate of the University of Western Ontario law school had no comment on the report of her appointment, which has yet to be officially announced by the premier's office.

When Jamieson graduated from law school in the mid-1970s, she was the first native woman to earn a bachelor of laws degree.

Six Nations Chief Coun. William Montour expressed pleasure that a native person had been appointed to the post. "I'm always happy when one of our people gets something."

She is a Mohawk from the Six Nations Reserve.



Roberta Jamieson
First woman native lawyer