
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier

NEW CABINET FOCUSED ON MOVING BRITISH COLUMBIA FORWARD

VICTORIA – Premier Gordon Campbell appointed a new cabinet today to build a strong economic future, capitalize on hosting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and seize emerging global opportunities as Canada’s Pacific Gateway.

“The members of this executive council are proven leaders and, like all of their caucus colleagues, are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work immediately to build a stronger province,” said Premier Campbell. “Together, we will focus on B.C.’s priorities of building the economy, creating jobs and continuing to enhance critical services like health and education.

“This is an important time in B.C.’s history, filled both with challenges and opportunities. The members of our new cabinet are dedicated to meeting those challenges and seizing those opportunities on behalf of all British Columbians. We will build on the strong foundation we’ve forged together over the last eight years and create an even brighter future.”

The new members of the provincial cabinet are Randy Hawes, Kash Heed, Margaret MacDiarmid, Mary McNeil, Ben Stewart, Moira Stilwell, Steve Thomson, Naomi Yamamoto and John Yap.

Mike de Jong is the Government house leader and George Abbott is the deputy house leader. Bill Barisoff will be the Government Caucus nominee for Speaker and Linda Reid the nominee for Deputy Speaker.

“We will continue to work with B.C.’s First Nations to strengthen and build on our new relationship, which will create certainty and economic opportunity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal British Columbians alike,” said Premier Campbell. “In just 247 days, B.C. and Canada will welcome the world for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. This is an unprecedented opportunity to market our province and its people to the world, and create new growth right here in British Columbia. Our cabinet will work to take advantage of this opportunity and to continue building our province as Canada’s Gateway to the Asia Pacific.”

Premier Campbell also named six MLAs as parliamentary secretaries: Donna Barnett, Dave Hayer, Terry Lake, Richard T. Lee, John Rustad and John Slater.

BACKGROUND

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Premier – **Hon. Gordon Campbell**

Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations – **Hon. Naomi Yamamoto**

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation – **Hon. George Abbott**

Advanced Education and Labour Market Development – **Hon. Moira Stilwell**

Agriculture and Lands – **Hon. Steve Thomson**

Attorney General – **Hon. Mike de Jong**

Children and Family Development and Minister Responsible for Child Care – **Hon. Mary Polak**

Citizens' Services and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism and the Public Affairs Bureau

– **Hon. Ben Stewart**

Community and Rural Development – **Hon. Bill Bennett**

Education and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy – **Hon. Margaret**

MacDiarmid

Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources – **Hon. Blair Lekstrom**

Minister of State for Mining – **Hon. Randy Hawes**

Environment – **Hon. Barry Penner**

Minister of State for Climate Action – **Hon. John Yap**

Finance and Deputy Premier – **Hon. Colin Hansen**

Forests and Range and Minister Responsible for the Integrated Land Management Bureau –

Hon. Pat Bell

Health Services – **Hon. Kevin Falcon**

Healthy Living and Sport – **Hon. Ida Chong**

Minister of State for the Olympics and ActNow BC – **Hon. Mary McNeil**

Housing and Social Development – **Hon. Rich Coleman**

Labour – **Hon. Murray Coell**

Public Safety and Solicitor General – **Hon. Kash Heed**

Small Business, Technology and Economic Development – **Hon. Iain Black**

Tourism, Culture and the Arts – **Hon. Kevin Krueger**

Transportation and Infrastructure – **Hon. Shirley Bond**

Parliamentary Secretaries

Parliamentary Secretary for the Asia-Pacific Initiative to the Minister of Small Business,
Technology and Economic Development - **Richard T. Lee**

Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism to the Minister of Citizens' Services - **Dave Hayer**

Parliamentary Secretary for Pine Beetle Community Recovery to the Minister of Community and
Rural Development - **Donna Barnett**

Parliamentary Secretary for the Ranching Task Force to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands -
Terry Lake

Parliamentary Secretary for Silviculture to the Minister of Forests and Range - **John Rustad**

Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation to the Minister of Environment - **John
Slater**

Additional appointments

Government house leader – **Hon. Mike de Jong**

Government deputy house leader – **Hon. George Abbott**

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BACKGROUND

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations

General Responsibilities

Cabinet operations

Corporate planning

Strategic policy and legislative priorities

Intergovernmental relations

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

General Responsibilities

Aboriginal policy and coordination

Treaty negotiations

Consultation and accommodation policy

First Citizens' Fund

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

BC Treaty Commission

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council

Native Economic Development Advisory Board

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

General Responsibilities

Post-secondary financing

Post-secondary policy and accountability

Student financial assistance

Immigration policy

Labour market policy

Provincial Nominee Program

WorkBC

BladeRunners

Industry training

Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Industry Training Authority

Knowledge Network Corporation

Universities, Colleges and Institutes

Private Career Training Institutions Agency

B.C. College and Institute Boards

University Boards of Governors

British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers

Degree Quality Assessment Board

BC Pension Corporation

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LANDS

General Responsibilities

Agriculture, aquaculture and food industry development
Animal health and crop protection
Food safety and quality
Commercial fisheries and fish processing
Aquaculture licensing and regulation
Allocation of Crown land
Soil management
Weed control
Crop insurance

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Agricultural Land Commission
BC Farm Industry Review Board
BC Wine Institute
Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

General Responsibilities

Criminal justice and family law
Administrative law policy
Court administration
Legal aid and public legal education
Alternate dispute resolution
Family maintenance
Legal services to government

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Legal Services Society
BC Utilities Commission
B.C. Human Rights Tribunal
B.C. Law Institute
B.C. Review Board

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (Minister Responsible for Child Care)

General Responsibilities

Adoption and reunion services
Child protection and family development
Foster care
Child care
Children and youth with special needs
Child and Youth Mental Health

Youth justice programs

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Board of Registration for Social Workers
Provincial Child Care Council

MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

(Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism and the Public Affairs Bureau)

General Responsibilities

Citizen service delivery

- Government agents
- BC Stats
- BCOOnline
- Enquiry BC
- Online Channel Office
- Business and personal property registries services

Citizen Engagement

Multiculturalism

Queen's Printer

Canada-BC Business Service Centre

Chief Information Officer

Information and privacy policy

Workforce planning

Employee engagement

BC Public Service Agency

Public Affairs Bureau

Shared Services BC:

- Accommodation and Real Estate Services
- Workplace Technology Services
- Alternative Service Delivery
- Procurement and Supply Services
- Corporate Accounting Services
- Telecommunications infrastructure
- Solutions BC

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Multicultural Advisory Council

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

General Responsibilities

Community Charter

Local government

Vancouver Urban Development Agreement

University Endowment Lands

Community adjustment

Community Development Trust

Regional economic and rural development
Mountain Pine Beetle
Property assessment

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Board of Examiners
Columbia Basin Trust
BC Assessment Authority
Property Assessment Appeal Board
Islands Trust Fund Board
Northern Development Initiative Trust
North Island Coast Development Initiative Trust
Southern Interior Development Trust
Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society
BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy)

General Responsibilities

K-12 standards and accountability
K-12 funding
Independent schools
Community schools
Action Schools! BC programs
Early childhood development
Literacy
Libraries
Early Learning Agency
StrongStart BC Centres

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Education Advisory Council
College of Teachers
Learning Roundtable

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Minister of State for Mining

General Responsibilities

Energy policy, including electricity and alternative energy
Power technology development
Mines and minerals development
Geological Survey Branch
Oil and gas development
Offshore oil and gas development
Mines inspection

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

BC Hydro
BC Transmission Corporation
Columbia Power Corporation
Oil and Gas Commission
Assayers Certification Board of Examiners
Mediation and Arbitration Board

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
Minister of State for Climate Action

General Responsibilities

Parks, wilderness and protected areas
Air, land and water pollution prevention and waste management
Fish and wildlife habitat and species protection
Species at Risk Coordination Office
Compliance and enforcement
Water quality
Water allocation
Drought management
Dam and dyke safety and regulation
Flood plain management
Ocean management strategy
Watershed restoration
Environmental emergencies
Conservation Officer Service
Climate Action Secretariat
Environmental Assessment Office
State of Environment Reporting

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Environmental Appeal Board

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

General Responsibilities

Treasury Board
Office of the Comptroller General
Provincial treasury
Economic and financial analysis
Financial institutions regulation
Fiscal planning, tax policy
Tax collection including property, income and consumer
Forestry, mines, oil and gas revenue
Collection and loan management
Homeowner Grants
Capital Planning Secretariat
Crown Agencies Secretariat
Board Resourcing and Development Office

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

B.C. Securities Commission
Partnerships BC
Financial Institutions Commission
Insurance Council of B.C.
Real Estate Council
Mineral Tax Review Board

MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE

(Minister Responsible for Integrated Land Management Bureau)

General Responsibilities

Forest stewardship and timber supply
Forest protection – pests and fire
Compliance and enforcement
Forest investment
Timber pricing and sales
BC Timber Sales
Grazing and range stewardship
Integrated Land Management Bureau:
- Land use planning
- Land Information BC
- Aboriginal consultation coordination
- Single point of contact service

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Forest Appeals Commission
Forest Practices Board
Forestry Innovation Investments Ltd.
Timber Export Advisory Committee

MINISTRY OF HEALTH SERVICES

General Responsibilities

Leadership and support for the health service delivery system
Performance management of the health authorities
Health human resource planning
Health regulation and licensing
Health information systems and e-health
End of life and palliative care
Community and home support services
Mental health and addictions services
HealthLinkBC
BC Bedline
Medical Services Plan
PharmaCare
BC Ambulance Service
Vital Statistics

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Health Authorities

Medical Services Commission

Medical and Health Care Services Appeal Board

BC Patient Safety & Quality Council

Hospital Appeal Board

MINISTRY OF HEALTHY LIVING AND SPORT

Minister of State for the Olympics and ActNow BC

General Responsibilities

Health promotion and protection

Aboriginal health promotion

Public health planning

Provincial Health Officer

Provincial Nutritionist

Women and seniors

Assisted living and residential care

Community Care licensing

Communicable diseases prevention and addictions services promotion

Healthy living / chronic disease prevention

Water and air monitoring and reporting

Sports and recreation

Dial-a-Dietitian

ActNow BC

BC Olympic Games Secretariat

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board

BC Games Society

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

General Responsibilities

Housing and homeless policy

Building policy

Safety standards and inspections

Landlord-tenant dispute resolution

Income assistance

Disability assistance

Delivery of employment programs

Provincial Disability Strategy

Adult community living services

Transition houses

Mental health and addictions services coordination

Volunteer and non-profit support

Liquor control and licensing

Liquor Distribution Branch

Gaming policy

Responsible Gambling Strategy
Community gaming grants

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

BC Housing Management Commission
BC Lottery Corporation
Community Living BC
Building Code Appeal Board
Homeowner Protection Office
Building Policy Advisory Committee
Safety Standards Appeal Board
Safety Authority of BC
Provincial Rental Housing Commission
Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

General Responsibilities

Labour relations
Employment standards
Occupational health and safety
Workers Compensation Act

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

BC Labour Relations Board
Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal
Employment Standards Tribunal

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

General Responsibilities

Police and correctional services
Provincial emergency management
Emergency social services
Crime prevention programs
Criminal record check and protection order registry
Victim assistance
Consumer services
Gaming enforcement
Superintendent of Motor Vehicles
Office of the Fire Commissioner

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
Police boards
Coroners Service of B.C.

**MINISTRY OF SMALL BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

General Responsibilities

Economic development policy
International and internal trade policy
Export market development
Business climate
Small Business Roundtable
Smart regulation
BC venture capital program
Innovation and technology
Low carbon economy
International Financial Centre
Innovative Clean Energy Fund
Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement
BC Trade Commission, Education and Skills Development

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Leading Edge Endowment Fund Board
Asia-Pacific Trade Council
BC Innovation Council
Premier's Technology Council

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

General Responsibilities

Tourism strategy
Aboriginal tourism
Heritage conservation
Archaeology
Recreation sites and trails
Recreational fish and wildlife promotion
Public backcountry recreation
Commercial recreation policy
Resorts and alpine ski developments
Film policy and classification
Arts and culture programs

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Tourism BC
Provincial Capital Commission
BC Arts Council
Royal BC Museum Corporation
BC Pavilion Corporation

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

General Responsibilities

Transportation planning and policy
Highway construction and maintenance

Commercial vehicle safety and inspections
Port and airport development
Infrastructure grants
Major capital project management

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

BC Rail
Passenger Transportation Board
BC Transit
BC Transportation Financing Authority
Rapid Transit 2000 Project

CABINET COMMITTEES

Agenda and Priorities Committee

Premier Gordon Campbell (chair)
George Abbott
Rich Coleman
Mike de Jong
Kevin Falcon
Margaret MacDiarmid
Joan McIntyre

Cabinet Committee on Climate Action

Premier Gordon Campbell (chair)
John Yap (vice-chair)
Shirley Bond
Rich Coleman
Eric Foster
Barry Penner
Naomi Yamamoto

Environment and Land Use Committee

Barry Penner (chair)
George Abbott
Pat Bell
Randy Hawes
Kevin Krueger
Terry Lake
John Slater

Legislative Review Committee

George Abbott (chair)
Barry Penner (vice-chair)
Bill Bennett
Mike de Jong
Norm Letnick
Maira Stilwell
Jane Thornthwaite

Treasury Board

Colin Hansen (chair)

Shirley Bond (vice-chair)

Stephanie Cadieux

Ron Cantelon

Ida Chong

Blair Lekstrom

Steve Thomson

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BACKGROUND

DEPUTY MINISTER LIST

The following deputy minister and deputy minister-equivalent appointments have been made:

Office of the Premier

Jessica McDonald, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary
Lorne Brownsey, Deputy Minister, Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Bob de Faye, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

Robin Ciceri, Deputy Minister
Paul Straszak, President and CEO, Public Sector Employers' Council

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Larry Pedersen, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Attorney General

Allan Seckel, Deputy Attorney General

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Lesley du Toit, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Citizens' Services

Kim Henderson, Deputy Minister
Beth James, President and CEO, Shared Services BC
Ron Norman, Head, Government Communications, Public Affairs Bureau
Lynda Tarras, Head, BC Public Service Agency

Ministry of Community and Rural Development

Dale Wall, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Education

James Gorman, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Greg Reimer, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Environment

Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister
Robin Junger, Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office

Ministry of Finance

Graham Whitmarsh, Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board

Ministry of Forests and Range

Dana Hayden, Deputy Minister
Steve Carr, President and CEO, Integrated Land Management Bureau

Ministry of Health Services

John Dyble, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Grant Main, Deputy Minister
Philip Steenkamp, President and CEO, B.C. Olympic Games Secretariat

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

Cairine MacDonald, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Labour

Rob Lapper, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

David Morhart, Public Security Commissioner and Deputy Solicitor General
Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister, Public Safety

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

Don Fast, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Peter Milburn, Deputy Minister

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BACKGROUND

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES

(Note: High-resolution photos can be downloaded at http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/)

HON. GORDON CAMPBELL PREMIER

Gordon Campbell was re-elected MLA for Vancouver – Point Grey on May 12, 2009. He was first sworn in as British Columbia's 34th Premier on June 5, 2001.

Premier Campbell was elected leader of the BC Liberal Party in September 1993. He was elected to the B.C. Legislature in 1994 in a by-election to represent the riding of Vancouver-Quilchena and was re-elected in 1996, 2001 and 2005 for Vancouver-Point Grey.

Premier Campbell attended public school in Vancouver. After graduating, he received a scholarship to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire where he received his bachelor of arts degree. He worked his way through university in the dining hall and as the associate to the secretary of the College. He later received a master's of business administration from Simon Fraser University.

In 1984, he was elected to Vancouver City Council. From 1986 to 1993, he served as mayor of Vancouver for three successive terms.

HON. NAOMI YAMAMOTO MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Naomi Yamamoto was elected as MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale in the 2009 general provincial election.

Minister Yamamoto has been the president and owner of Tora Design Group in North Vancouver for 21 years, and for the past two years she has been with the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce as president and general manager.

Recently, she served on the board of the North Shore Credit Union and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, and was president of the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation. As well, she represented the North Vancouver Chamber on the North Shore 2010 Spirit Committee and Vancouver's North Shore Tourism Association Board.

In 1994, Minister Yamamoto served as chair of the BC Chamber of Commerce. She completed a six-year term on the board of Capilano College, with the last three years as chair. She also enjoyed six years as a director of the North Shore Neighbourhood House.

In 2005, Naomi was appointed as an inaugural member of the Premier's Small Business Roundtable.

HON. GEORGE ABBOTT
MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

George Abbott was re-elected as MLA for Shuswap on May 12, 2009. He has previously served as Minister of Health since June 16, 2005. He also served as Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services and Minister of Sustainable Resource Management.

Minister Abbott has also been deputy house leader for the Official Opposition and was critic for municipal affairs and forests. He was deputy chair of the Select Standing Committees on Forests, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and was a member of the Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Additionally, he sat on the Official Opposition Caucus Committee on Crime.

First elected as MLA in 1996 to represent the riding of Shuswap, Minister Abbott was re-elected in 2001 and again in 2005. Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, he was the chair of the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District, and a political science instructor at Okanagan University College. He also owned the oldest and largest berry farm in the Interior.

Minister Abbott received his bachelor of arts from the University of British Columbia and his master of arts in political science from the University of Victoria.

HON. MOIRA STILWELL
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Moira Stilwell was elected MLA for Vancouver-Langara on May 12, 2009.

Minister Stilwell is a radiologist and nuclear medicine physician who has been working at BC Women's Hospital for nearly a decade. Prior to being elected, Moira was head of nuclear medicine at St. Paul's Hospital, Surrey Memorial Hospital, and Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Clinic. She was also the co-chair of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation 2020 Task Force. She previously worked at BC Women's Hospital where she was co-medical director of the Breast Health Program and staff radiologist. She was a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Radiology in the Faculty of Medicine at University of British Columbia.

She is the past chair of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, BC/Yukon Chapter, has served on the board of the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance, as well as on the BC Women's Hospital Foundation Board.

HON. STEVE THOMSON
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LANDS

Steve Thomson was elected to represent the riding of Kelowna-Mission on May 12, 2009. Born and raised in Kelowna, he comes from a pioneer family who continue to operate the original family farm established in 1896.

Minister Thomson is the former executive director of the BC Agriculture Council and has developed his career and experience working on behalf of British Columbia farmers and ranchers. He has served as general manager of the BC Fruit Growers' Association and the BC Milk Producers Association.

He has served the community and province as president of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and chair of the BC Chamber of Commerce, and has represented those organizations and others on provincial government task forces focused on red tape reduction and small business development.

He has also served as a director of the Kelowna Museum, the Okanagan Innovation Fund and the BC BioEnergy Network.

**HON. MIKE DE JONG
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Mike de Jong was re-elected as MLA for the new riding of Abbotsford West on May 12, 2009.

He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in a 1994 by-election to represent the electoral district of Matsqui. He was re-elected in 1996 and again in 2001 to the new riding of Abbotsford-Mount Lehman, where he was again re-elected in 2005.

Minister de Jong previously served as Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation since Aug. 15, 2006. He has also served as Government House Leader.

Minister de Jong has previously served as Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services and Minister of Forests. Prior to that, he was deputy house leader for the Official Opposition and served as a critic for a variety of portfolios.

Before his election, Minister de Jong practiced as a lawyer in his Abbotsford firm. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Carleton University in Ottawa and a law degree from the University of Alberta.

**HON. MARY POLAK
MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
Minister Responsible for Child Care**

Mary Polak was elected to the Legislature in 2005 and again in the May 12, 2009 election to represent Langley. She was appointed Minister of Healthy Living and Sport on June 23, 2008.

She has served as the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Health for the Conversation on Health. Minister Polak served on the Cabinet Committee on New Relationship Co-ordination and the Government Caucus Committee on Social Development. She has served on the Government Caucus Committee for Natural Resources and the Economy, the Select Standing Committees for Children and Youth, Education and Public Accounts. She has also been a member of the Cabinet Committee on Agenda Development and the Special Committee to Review the Personal Information Protection Act.

Before being elected to the Legislative Assembly, Minister Polak was director of operations for a small polling and research firm and a trustee and former chair of the Surrey School Board. Under her leadership, Surrey became the first school district in B.C. to balance its books according to generally accepted accounting principles. She also led an initiative to make Surrey the first

school district in the province to publish school-by-school results for both elementary and secondary schools.

HON. BEN STEWART
MINISTER OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism and the Public Affairs Bureau

Ben Stewart was elected as MLA for Westside-Kelowna on May 12, 2009.

An entrepreneur, Minister Stewart founded and built Quails' Gate into one of Canada's leading estate wineries.

He has 30 years of extensive experience serving the community and is a founding director of a venture capital fund for local business development. He was on the board of the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation and has been active in the fundraising and establishment of the Brookhaven Extended Care Facility Campaign, Southern Interior Cancer Centre Campaign, and the Rotary Centre for the Arts.

Minister Stewart was chair of the BC Grape Marketing Board where he successfully negotiated with provincial and federal governments on agricultural stabilization. Additionally, he was chairman of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee for the Thompson Okanagan, as well as a member of the Presidents Community Advisory Council at UBC Okanagan.

HON. BILL BENNETT
MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Bill Bennett was re-elected as MLA for Kootenay East on May 12, 2009.

He previously served as Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts since June 23, 2008. In 2007, he became chair of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, a member of the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth, and chair of the B.C. Outdoor Caucus. He previously served as minister of state for mining.

Minister Bennett was elected to represent the riding of East Kootenay in the 2001 provincial election and re-elected in 2005. He served on the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources and served on the Kootenay Caucus. He was also deputy chair of the Parliamentary Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, a member of the Premier's Olympic Live Sites Committee, the Caucus Committee on Treaties, the Waste Management Review Committee and is a legislative member of the committee for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region.

Before being elected, Minister Bennett was a partner in a Cranbrook law firm. In 1976, he earned an honours degree in English from the University of Guelph and in 1992 a law degree from Queen's University.

HON. MARGARET MACDIARMID
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy

Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid was elected MLA for Vancouver-Fairview on May 12, 2009.

Minister MacDiarmid has been a family physician for 23 years. She served on the board of the BC Medical Association for 12 years and was president in 2006-2007.

The BCMA is a voluntary association of 11,000 members comprised of British Columbia's physicians, medical residents, and medical students. During her time with the BCMA, Minister MacDiarmid met with key leaders from government and other organizations.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Minister MacDiarmid moved to Rossland, B.C. in 1989. Since the mid-1990s, her work brought her more frequently to Vancouver where she decided to settle.

HON. BLAIR LEKSTROM
MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Blair Lekstrom was re-elected to a third term as MLA for Peace River South on May 12, 2009.

He was first appointed Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources on January 19, 2009 after serving as Minister of Community Development from June 23, 2008. He was first elected in the 2001 provincial general election in the riding of Peace River South, and was re-elected for a second term in the 2005 general election.

Previously, Minister Lekstrom chaired the Legislative Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and served on the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Agriculture Policy Development Committee, the Legislative Review Committee and the Government Caucus Committee on the Economy. In the past he has also served as the chair of the Legislative Committee to review the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the BC Offshore Oil and Gas Committee. He has been a member of the Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, the Select Standing Committee on Health, the Northern Caucus Committee, the Cabinet Committee on Agenda & Priorities, and the Legislative Committee on the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Before becoming an MLA, Minister Lekstrom was serving his second term as mayor of the City of Dawson Creek. He was first elected mayor in 1996, after serving for three years as a councillor.

HON. RANDY HAWES
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINING

Randy Hawes was re-elected as MLA to represent the new riding of Abbotsford-Mission on May 12, 2009. Hawes was first elected as MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission in 2001 and was re-elected in the May 2005 provincial general election.

He has served as chief government whip, chair of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Service, chair of the Government Committee on Health, and has been a member of the Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Health.

In addition, he served on the Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Special Committee to Select a Merit Commissioner and chairs the Burrard Thermal Options Committee.

Before becoming an MLA, Minister Hawes was in his third term as mayor of the District of Mission. He was also chair of the Fraser Valley Regional District, a member of the Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee for four years, a four-year member of the James Sewer Treatment Plant Board, and a seven-year member (four as chair) of the Fraser Valley Water Commission.

HON. BARRY PENNER
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

Barry Penner was re-elected as MLA to represent the new riding of Chilliwack-Hope on May 12, 2009.

He was first elected to represent Chilliwack in 1996, and was re-elected in the new riding of Chilliwack-Kent in 2001 and 2005.

Minister Penner was first named Minister of Environment and Minister responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities on June 16, 2005.

Raised in Chilliwack, Minister Penner studied political science and economics at Simon Fraser University to earn his bachelor of arts degree. He later earned his law degree from the University of Victoria. A former park ranger and sawmill worker, Minister Penner also worked as a B.C. Legislative intern in Victoria. In 1991, he worked for an international law firm in Bangkok, Thailand and then later practiced law in Chilliwack until his election in 1996.

He previously served as parliamentary secretary to the government house leader, as chair of the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources, and was a member of the Legislature's Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

He has also chaired the Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Parliamentary Reform, Ethical Conduct, Standing Orders and Private Bills, and served as a member of the Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, and the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Review.

HON. JOHN YAP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

John Yap was first elected in the riding of Richmond-Steveston in the 2005 provincial election. He was re-elected on May 12, 2009.

Minister Yap previously served as the chair of the Government Caucus. He was also a member of the Treasury Board, the Legislative Review Cabinet Committee, as well as the Select Standing Committees of Public Accounts Crown Corporations and Finance and Government Services. He has also served as a member of the Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture and was previously a member of the Finance and Government Services Committee

Minister Yap is active in the community as a Rotarian, being a charter member and past president of the Richmond Sunset Rotary Club. He is also a member of Gilmore Park United Church, where he has previously served as board chair, finance chair, treasurer and personnel committee chair. He has served as board chair of Gilmore Seniors Centre, a 117-unit seniors' residence. John is an honorary member of the Vancouver Diamond Lions Club.

HON. COLIN HANSEN
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY PREMIER

Colin Hansen was re-elected to represent Vancouver-Quilchena on May 12, 2009. He was first elected in 1996, and re-elected in 2001 and 2005.

He was appointed Minister of Finance on June 23, 2008. He previously served as Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Health Services, and a previous appointment as Minister of Finance.

Minister Hansen served as health critic for the Official Opposition, as well as the critic for Employment and Investment, and for Labour. He sat on the Select Standing Committees on Crown Corporations and on Economic Development, Science, Labour, Training and Technology. He also sat on the Official Opposition Caucus Committees on Health and Economy.

Minister Hansen received his bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of Victoria in 1975.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, he and his wife Laura owned and operated a small business they established in 1988. Prior to that, he was vice-president of finance and administration for the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

HON. PAT BELL
MINISTER OF FORESTS AND RANGE

Minister Responsible for the Integrated Land Management Bureau

Pat Bell was re-elected as MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie on May 12, 2009.

He was first appointed Minister of Forests and Range on June 23, 2008. He previously served as Minister of Agriculture and Lands and as minister of state for mining.

Minister Bell was elected to represent the riding of Prince George North in the 2001 election and re-elected in 2005.

He has served on the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources and B.C. Task Force on Mining, and as chair of the Small Scale Salvage Review Committee. Minister Bell has also served on the Legislative Select Standing Committees on Education and Crown Corporations.

Prior to becoming an MLA, Minister Bell owned a trucking company and co-owned a logging company. He owns two Wendy's Restaurants in Prince George.

HON. KEVIN FALCON
MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES

Kevin Falcon was first elected in 2001 to represent the riding of Surrey-Cloverdale, and was re-elected in 2005 and 2009. He initially served as minister of state for deregulation.

He previously served as Minister of Transportation since January 26, 2004, overseeing a capital program that included the Kicking Horse Canyon, the Sea-to-Sky Highway and the William R. Bennett Bridge, among many others.

Minister Falcon's leadership recently earned him recognition in Vancouver Magazine's annual ranking of the city's 50 most influential leaders.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly in 2001, he was president of Access Group, a corporate communications firm he founded in 1998. He has also worked in the real estate development industry and was vice-president of Northwest Investment Properties. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Simon Fraser University, and his real estate education at the University of British Columbia.

HON. IDA CHONG
MINISTER OF HEALTHY LIVING AND SPORT

Ida Chong was re-elected to represent the riding Oak Bay–Gordon Head on May 12, 2009.

She previously served as Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development and Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative.

Minister Chong also served as Minister of Community Services, with responsibilities for local governments, Seniors' and Women's Issues and the B.C. Public Service Agency. In addition to her role as Minister, Minister Chong also served on the Cabinet Committee for Climate Action and B.C.'s Treasury Board.

Minister Chong has previously held cabinet portfolios as Minister of Advanced Education and as minister of state for women's and seniors' Services.

A native of greater Victoria, Minister Chong has represented her constituency of Oak Bay-Gordon Head since she first entered provincial politics in 1996. During her first term at the legislature she was the Official Opposition critic in a number of areas, including critic for Small Business and deputy critic of Finance.

HON. MARY MCNEIL
MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE OLYMPICS AND ACTNOW BC

Mary McNeil was first elected MLA for Vancouver-False Creek in the 2009 general provincial election on May 12.

Most recently, Minister McNeil served as president and CEO of the BC Cancer Foundation for eight years. She has served in key roles for international economic events including the G7 meetings in Halifax and Toronto, APEC in Vancouver and the XI international conference on AIDS.

Minister McNeil has also served on the Vancouver Police Board for four years.

HON. RICH COLEMAN
MINISTER OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Rich Coleman was first elected in 1996 to represent the riding of Fort Langley-Aldergrove and was re-elected in 2001, 2005 and 2009.

He was first appointed Minister of Housing and Social Development on June 23, 2008.

He previously served as Minister of Forests and Range and Minister Responsible for Housing, as well as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

From 1996-2001, Minister Coleman served in a variety of Official Opposition roles, including housing critic, forests deputy critic, and caucus whip. He also sat on the Official Opposition Caucus Committee on Crime.

Minister Coleman has served as governor of the B.C. Kinsmen, president of the Aldergrove Chamber of Commerce, and as a director on several volunteer boards. He was awarded Rotary's highest honour, the Paul Harris Fellowship, and received a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003. He has also received the Canada 125 Medal for community service and was chosen Langley's Volunteer of the Year in 1988.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, Minister Coleman ran a real estate management and consulting company. He is also a former member of the RCMP and a security specialist.

HON. MURRAY COELL
MINISTER OF LABOUR

Murray Coell was re-elected to the riding of Saanich North and the Islands on May 12, 2009.

Minister Coell served as Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development since June 23, 2008. He was previously appointed as Minister of Advanced Education and Minister Responsible for Research and Technology on June 16, 2005.

His past portfolios include Minister of Human Resources and Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

He was first elected in 1996 to represent the riding of Saanich North and the Islands, and was re-elected in 2001, 2005 and 2009. He has served on the Government Caucus Committee on Communities and Safety, the Cabinet Committee of Agenda and Priorities, the Treasury Board, and the Public Sector Employers' Council.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, Minister Coell was a social worker, specializing in alcohol and drug rehabilitation as well as in services to those with mental disabilities. He also owned and operated a small business.

He received his bachelor of arts in social welfare from the University of Victoria. Minister Coell sat on Saanich Municipal Council for 12 years, six of them as mayor. He also chaired the Capital Regional District, the Saanich Police board and the Capital Regional District hospital board, and was deputy chair of the Municipal Finance Authority.

HON. KASH HEED
MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

Kash Heed was elected MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview on May 12, 2009.

Minister Heed graduated from the B.C. Police Academy in 1979 and has spent the past 30 years serving the public in law enforcement.

He began his career as an officer with the Vancouver Police Department where he moved through the ranks of constable, detective, sergeant, inspector and superintendent. During this same time, he completed his BA and MA at Simon Fraser University part-time.

While superintendent in charge of the south part of Vancouver, and as an Inspector in the southeast quadrant of Vancouver he created the Gang Violence Task Force.

Minister Heed was also head of the drug squad, led the Indo-Canadian gang task force and launched the COMPSTAT system, using computer technology to track crime. In 2007, he was appointed chief of the West Vancouver Police Department.

HON. IAIN BLACK
MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Iain Black was re-elected to represent the new riding of Port Moody-Coquitlam in the 2009 provincial general election. He was first elected as an MLA for the former Port Moody-Westwood riding in 2005. He previously served as Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services since June 23, 2008.

Minister Black served on the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action. He has served on Treasury Board, and three Select Standing Committees of the Legislature including Finance and Government Services, Public Accounts, as chair of Crown Corporations, and as chair of the Special Committee to Appoint a Conflict of Interest Commissioner. He has also chaired the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources and the Economy.

Before entering politics, Minister Black had a successful career in the technology industry and was president of the Banking Solutions Group of Open Solutions Canada.

HON. KEVIN KRUEGER
MINISTER OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Kevin Krueger was re-elected as MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson on May 12, 2009. He previously served as Minister of Community Development since January 19, 2009 after working as Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform since June 23, 2008. He previously served as minister of state for mining.

Minister Krueger was re-elected as MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson in 2005 after being elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2001. He was also a member of the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources and Economy, where he previously served as chair.

While in Opposition, Minister Krueger served as the critic for Labour. He was Caucus Whip as well as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Education. Minister Krueger was named to the Special Committee of Selection and the Special Committee for the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform. He was also a member of the Legislative Assembly Management Committee. He previously was a member of the Small Scale Salvage Committee.

Before becoming an MLA, Minister Krueger worked with the Insurance Corporation of BC for 20 years, and at the time of his departure was a road safety regional manager.

HON. SHIRLEY BOND
MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Shirley Bond was re-elected to a third term as MLA for Prince George-Valemount on May 12, 2009.

Minister Bond previously served as Deputy Premier and Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy. She also served on the Government Caucus Committee on Social Development, the Cabinet Committee on Agenda Development, Treasury Board and chairs the Cabinet Committee on New Relationship Coordination.

Minister Bond was elected in 2001 and re-elected in 2005 to represent the riding of Prince George-Mount Robson. She has also previously served as Minister of Advanced Education and Minister of Health Services.

Minister Bond has an arts and science diploma from the College of New Caledonia and, up until becoming MLA, was working on a bachelor of arts degree in political science at the University of Northern BC.

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