

FAST FACTS

Women in Provincial Politics

Provincial Legislatures

How many women are elected to provincial legislatures?
How many women sit in provincial cabinets?
What portfolios do they currently hold?
How many women have held the position of Premier?
How many female party leaders are there?
How many women have historically served in provincial cabinets?
What cabinet portfolios have women held over time?

How many women are elected to provincial legislatures?*

The following is the current gender breakdown in provincial legislatures nationally:

Province	Elected Women/ Total Seats	% Elected Women
Manitoba	18/57	31.6
Ontario	29/107	27
PEI	7/27	25.9
Quebec	32/125	25.6
British Columbia	17/79	21.5
Newfoundland	10/48	20.8
Saskatchewan	11/58	19.0
Nova Scotia	9/52	17.3
Alberta	13/83	15.7
New Brunswick	7/55	12.7
TOTAL	153/691	22%

**as of October 31, 2007*

The following is the gender breakdown in territorial legislatures

Territory	Elected Women/Total Seats	% Elected Women
NWT*	3/19	16%
Yukon	2/18	11.1%
Nunavut	2/19	10.5%
TOTAL	7/56	13%

*updated October 31, 2007

How many women sit in provincial cabinets?

Women in Provincial Cabinets – 2007*

Province	Party	Women Ministers/ Total Ministers	% Female
Quebec	Liberal	9/18	50.0%
Manitoba	New Democrat	6/18	33.3%
Ontario	Liberal	9/28	32%
Newfoundland	Pro. Conservative	5/18	28%
British Columbia	Liberal	5/23	21.7%
Alberta	Pro. Conservative	4/19	21.0%
PEI	Liberal	2/10	20.0%
Nova Scotia	Pro. Conservative	3/17	17.6%
Saskatchewan	New Democrat	3/19	15.7%
New Brunswick	Liberal	2/19	10.5%
TOTAL		48/189	25%

*As of October 31, 2007.

Territory	Party	Women Minister/ Total Minister	% Female
Yukon	Yukon Party	2/7	28.6%
Nunavut	N/A	2/8	25%
NWT	N/A	1/7	14%
TOTAL		5/22	23 %

*As of October 31, 2007.

What portfolios do women in provincial cabinets currently hold?

Quebec – 50% Women (updated April 2007):

1. Hon. Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks
2. Hon. Marguerite Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors
3. Hon. Julie Boulet, Minister of Transport
4. Hon. Michelle Courschesne, Minister of Education Recreation and Sports, Minister of Families
5. Hon. Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, Minister responsible for La Francophonie
6. Hon. Yolande James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities
7. Hon. Monique Jerome-Forget, Minister of Finance, Government Services, Minister for Government Administration, Chair of the Conseil du Tresor
8. Hon. Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions
9. Hon. Christine St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women

Manitoba - 33.3% Women:

1. Hon. Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy
2. Hon. Nancy Allan, Minister of Labour and Immigration, Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Status of Women and charged with the administration of The Workers Compensation Act
3. Hon. Christine Melnick, Minister of Water Stewardship
4. Hon. Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health
5. Hon. Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister responsible for Healthy Living, Seniors and Healthy Child Manitoba
6. Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Ontario – 32% Women (updated Oct 31/07):

1. Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Economic Development and Trade;
2. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture
3. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, and responsible for Francophone Affairs
4. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources
5. Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education and Chair of Cabinet
6. Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and responsible for Women's Issues
7. Monique Smith, Minister of Revenue
8. Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
9. Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture, and responsible for Seniors

What portfolios do women in provincial cabinets currently hold?

Newfoundland and Labrador – 28% Women (updated Oct 31/07):

1. Hon. Joan Burke, Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
2. Hon. Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
3. Hon. Dianne C. Whalen, Minister of Transportation and Works
4. Hon. Charlene Johnson, Minister of Environment and Conservation
5. Hon. Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

British Columbia – 21.7% Women:

1. Hon. Linda Reid, Minister of State for Childcare
2. Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services, and Minister responsible for Senior's and Women's Issues
3. Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Education and Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
4. Hon. Carole Taylor, Minister of Finance
5. Hon. Olga Ilich, Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services

Alberta – 21% Women:

1. Hon. Iris Evans, Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry
2. Hon. Janis Tarchuk, Minister of Children's Services
3. Hon. Yvonne Fritz, Associate Minister of Affordable Housing and Urban Development
4. Hon. Cindy Ady, Associate Minister of Tourism Promotion

Prince Edward Island – 20% Women:

1. Hon. Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour
2. Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister of Tourism

Nova Scotia – 17.6% Women:

1. Hon. Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Immigration, Human Resources, Public Service Commission, Seniors, Emergency Management, Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation, the Liquor Control Act, Advisory Council on the Status of Women and Chair of the Senior Citizens' Secretariat
2. Hon. Judy Streach, Minister of Community Services, Minister responsible for the Disabled Persons' Commission Act
3. Hon. Karen Casey, Minister of Education, Minister responsible for the Youth Secretariat Act, the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act

What portfolios do women in provincial cabinets currently hold?

Saskatchewan – 15.7% Women:

1. Hon. Pat Atkinson, Minister of Finance, Minister Responsible for Immigration, the Public Service Commission, SaskEnergy Incorporated and Deputy Government House Leader
2. Hon. Deb Higgins, Minister of Learning, Minister Responsible for Literacy, Liquor and Gaming Authority, Saskatchewan Telecommunications
3. Hon. Joan Beatty, Minister of Northern Affairs, Provincial Secretary

New Brunswick – 10.5% Women:

1. Hon. Carmel Robichaud, Minister of Family and Community Services, Minister Responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women
2. Hon. Mary Schryer, Minister of State for Seniors and Housing

Territories:

Yukon – 28.6% Women:

1. Hon. Marian Horne, Minister of Justice
2. Hon. Elaine Taylor, Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Minister responsible for Women's Directorate

Nunavut – 25% Women:

1. Hon. Levinia Brown, Minister of Community and Government Services
2. Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Social Services

NWT – 14% Women (updated Oct 31/07):

1. Sandy Lee Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Responsible for Persons With Disabilities

How many female premiers have served in Canada?

Women Premiers

Province	Party	Name	Period Served
BC	Social Credit	Rita Johnston	1991-04-02 - 1991-11-05
PEI	Liberal	Catherine Callbeck	1993-1996

In all other provinces, a woman has not held the position of Premier.

How many female major party leaders are there?

The following is a listing of female major party leaders in the provinces:

Women As Party Leaders - 2007

Province	Party	Name
British Columbia	New Democratic Party	Carole James
Newfoundland	New Democratic Party	Lorraine Michael
Quebec	Parti Québécois	Pauline Marois

In all other provinces, a woman is not currently the leader of a major political party.

How many women have historically served in provincial cabinets?

Women in Provincial Cabinets – 1976 to 2003

Year	Number of Women in Cabinet	Total Ministers	Percentage of Women
1976	7	186	3.8 %
1979	11	193	5.7 %
1982	18	205	8.8 %
1985	15	225	6.7 %
1988	26	208	12.5 %
1991	33	205	16.1 %
1994	38	182	20.9 %
1997	40	173	23.1 %
2003*	55	252	22 %

Source : "Women's work? *The distribution and prestige of portfolios in the Canadian provinces.*" Studlar, Donley T. and Moncrief, Gary F. *Governance*; October 1999, Vol. 12 Issue 4, p. 379.

*Source : Linda Trimble et Jane Arcsott, *Still Counting*, Broadview, 2003.

What cabinet portfolios have women held over time?

Portfolio	1976 - 1985	1988 - 1997	1976 - 1997
Women/Family Issues	5.1	13.2	11.1
Culture	8.5	7.8	8.0
Consumer/Corporate Affairs	8.5	4.2	5.3
Health/Social Services	27.1	18.6	20.8
Education	22.0	8.4	11.9
Environment	3.4	4.8	4.4
Infrastructure/ Administration	8.5	4.2	5.3
Economics/Finances	3.4	6.0	5.3
Intergovernmental Relations	1.7	7.2	5.8
Extractive Resources	0	4.8	3.5
Justice	0	3.0	2.2
Premier	0	1.2	0.9
Liquor/Gambling	0	1.8	1.3
Assoc. Minister w/o Portfolio	5.1	7.2	6.6
Labour	6.8	3.6	4.4
Minority Issues	0	4.2	3.1

Source : "Women's work? The distribution and prestige of portfolios in the Canadian provinces." Studlar, Donley T. Moncrief, Gary F. *Governance*; October 1999, Vol. 12 Issue 4, p. 387.