

Paul Martin
Minister of Finance

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Paul Martin studied law at the University of Toronto and was called to the Ontario bar in 1966.

The greater part of Mr. Martin's career has been spent in the private sector as a business executive, first with Power Corporation of Canada and later as chairman and chief executive officer of Canada Steamship Lines. He has been a corporate director of seven major Canadian companies.

Mr. Martin's experience in the shipping industry was not confined to the boardroom. As a young man he worked as a merchant seaman on the Mackenzie River, in the High Arctic and on the Atlantic Ocean. He also worked in the Alberta oil fields.

Mr. Martin was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988, for the riding of LaSalle-Émard. In Opposition, Mr. Martin served as critic for a variety of economic and social portfolios. From 1991 to September 1993, he was associate finance critic and critic for the environment. Previously he had been critic for the Treasury Board and for urban development. His other responsibilities included chairing the Liberal Caucus Committee on Sustainable Development and heading the Liberal Task Force on Housing Issues.

As co-chair of the National Platform Committee of the Liberal Party of Canada, Mr. Martin played a key role in drafting the Liberal platform for the 1993 federal election.

Mr. Martin has been active in a wide range of community and service organizations, including Concordia University, Amnesty International, the Centre for Research and Action on Race Relations and the Advisory Board of the Canadian Centre for Arms Control. He is also a founding director (emeritus) of the North-South Institute and the Canadian Council for Native Business.

Mr. Martin married Sheila Ann Cowan in 1965. They have three sons.