
The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs



Born in High River, Alberta on June 5, 1939, Mr. Clark is a former Prime Minister and Party Leader.

Mr. Clark holds a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Alberta as well as an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of New Brunswick.

A former journalist and political advisor, Mr. Clark was first elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1972. He was elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party on February 22, 1976. He was sworn in as Prime Minister on June 4, 1979 following the May 22 general election. His government was defeated at the polls on February 18, 1980. Mr. Clark was succeeded as Party Leader by Brian Mulroney on June 11, 1983.

In 1983, he undertook responsibility on behalf of the PC Party to study the issues of arms control and disarmament. His other Caucus responsibilities have included chairperson of the Caucus committee on Environment.

Mr. Clark also served as executive assistant to former Party Leader Robert Stanfield; special assistant to the Honourable Davie Fulton; director of provincial organization for Alberta PC Leader Peter Lougheed (1966-67); national president of PC Student Federation; private secretary to then Alberta PC Leader W.J.C. Kirby (1959).

Mr. Clark and his colleague, the Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance, co-chaired the 1985 meeting of Council at the Ministerial level of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).