

No Stranger to Politics

From an early age, Brian Mulroney was interested in public affairs. His political credentials, which would lead him inevitably to the highest elected office in the nation, were developed through hard work and dedication from the moment he entered university.

While he was at St. Francis Xavier University, he was elected Prime Minister of the Combined Maritimes Universities' Model Parliament.

In 1956, at the age of 17, Mr. Mulroney attended a Progressive Conservative Party convention which had been called to elect a new leader of the Party. He served as Vice-Chairman of the Youth For Diefenbaker; John George Diefenbaker went on to win the leadership and become Canada's Prime Minister.

This was the beginning of a close political relationship between Brian Mulroney and the late Prime Minister Diefenbaker, who consulted him from time to time on political affairs in Quebec.

While at Université Laval, Brian Mulroney continued his tradition of activism in both student and national political affairs. He was instrumental in the organization of the Congrès des Affaires Canadiennes, a focal point in the events of Quebec's Quiet Revolution.



Two Prime Ministers of Canada — Brian Mulroney and the late John George Diefenbaker. This photo, from Prime Minister Mulroney's personal album, was taken during Diefenbaker's successful bid for the Progressive Conservative Party leadership in 1956. Mulroney, only seventeen at the time, became a close political friend of Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada from 1957 to 1963.

Years later, during an intense political debate on the future of Quebec within the nation, Mulroney would serve on the 'NO' Committee, which favoured that Quebec remain within the Canadian Confederation. He travelled the province tirelessly, appealing to Quebecers as Canadians; Quebecers voted overwhelmingly to remain an integral part of the nation.

To this day, Brian Mulroney fights consistently and eloquently for a strong Quebec within a united Canada.

"There is no obligation more compelling, no duty more irresistible in Canada and around the world than to ensure that our minorities, linguistic and otherwise, live at all times in conditions of fairness and justice."

Prime Minister Mulroney