

Piers McDonald

Government Leader of Yukon

Piers McDonald was born in Kingston, Ontario, on Aug. 4, 1955. After studying at Queen's University, he moved to Yukon in 1975.

An underground miner with United Keno Hill Mine in Elsa for six years, he was active with Local 924 of the United Steelworkers of America.

He was first elected to the Yukon general assembly in 1982 to represent the Mayo riding. In Opposition, he served as critic for labour, the Public Service Commission, occupational health and safety, the Workers' Compensation Board, and agriculture. Following the 1985 general election, Mr. McDonald became Minister of Education, Minister of Community and Transportation Services, and Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation.

From 1989 until 1991 he held the portfolios of Finance, Education, and Economic Development. He was subsequently Minister of Education, Government Services, and the Public Service Commission, as well as being responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board until 1992.

After redistribution combined the Mayo and Tatchun ridings, Mr. McDonald ran successfully in the Whitehorse riding of McIntyre-Takhini in 1992 and 1996.

He became leader of the Yukon New Democratic Party in 1995 and led his party to victory in the 1996 general election. On Oct. 19, 1996, he was sworn in as Government Leader and Minister of Finance. As Minister of the Executive Council Office, he has responsibilities for land claims, devolution and intergovernmental affairs.

Mr. McDonald and his wife, Ofelia Andrade, have four children.