



The Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister for External Relations and International Development and Minister of State for Seniors

Born in Rimouski, Quebec, Monique Vézina was elected Member of Parliament for the riding of Rimouski-Témiscouata on September 4, 1984.

She became a member of the Cabinet, having been appointed Minister for External Relations and thus also responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In June 1986, she became Minister of Supply and Services Canada.

In August 1987, Mrs. Vézina was appointed Minister of State for Transport, and in March 1988 she became Minister of State for Employment and Immigration. In September 1988, the Prime Minister added the Seniors portfolio to her responsibilities.

On January 4, 1993, Mrs. Vézina was re-appointed as Minister for External Relations and International Development while retaining the position of Minister of State for Seniors. The latter responsibility underlines the importance of seniors in Canadian society and provides a voice for them on matters of concern to them. Mrs. Vézina is also generally responsible for La Francophonie and for relations with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Vézina has been active in numerous social and educational organizations. Among other things, she has been National President of the Dames Hélène de Champlain movement, member of the board of directors and President of the Organismes familiaux associés du Québec, member of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation du Québec, and Chairperson of the Commission de l'enseignement secondaire.

Mrs. Vézina has been active in economic and financial circles as well, particularly within the Desjardins co-operative movement, as President of the Fédération des Caisses populaires Desjardins du Bas-Saint-Laurent, as a member of the board of directors of the Confédération des Caisses populaires et d'économies Desjardins du Québec, and as President of the Fondation Desjardins.

Mrs. Vézina also served as Vice-Chairman of the board of directors of the Régie de l'assurance-automobile du Québec. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Quebec Real Estate Board.

As Minister of Supply and Services Canada, she was also responsible for Statistics Canada and the Royal Canadian Mint, while at the same time being the Receiver General of Canada.

As Minister of State for Transport, Mrs. Vézina served as spokesperson for issues concerning Quebec and the Francophone regions of Canada, and also dealt with issues concerning disabled persons.

In her position as Minister of State for Employment and Immigration, Mrs. Vézina was responsible for relations with Quebec and the Atlantic provinces in immigration, for numerous employment programs, including the legislated employment equity program, and for administering the Unemployment Insurance Act. At the same time, she served as Minister of State for Seniors within the National Health and Welfare portfolio.

