

Lucien Bouchard

Premier of Quebec

Lucien Bouchard was born on Dec. 22, 1938, at Saint-Coeur-de-Marie, in the Lac-Saint-Jean region of Quebec. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Jonquière College in 1959. He received a bachelor's degree in social science and a degree in law from Laval University. He was then admitted to the Quebec Bar.

For some years, Mr. Bouchard had a private law practice and was active in labour relations organizations and commissions in the public and private sectors. One of his undertakings was as chief counsel for the Commission of Inquiry on the Construction Industry.

In July 1985, Mr. Bouchard was appointed Canadian ambassador to France and held that post until his appointment as Secretary of State of Canada in March 1988.

In June 1988, he was elected the member of Parliament for the Quebec riding Lac-Saint-Jean and was re-elected in the November 1988 federal election. Named Minister of the Environment in January 1989, Mr. Bouchard also served on several cabinet committees.

In May 1990, Mr. Bouchard resigned as Minister of the Environment and as a Conservative member of Parliament to sit as an independent member of Parliament and, shortly after, to sit as Leader of the Bloc Québécois, a new party. A Bloc Québécois candidate in the October 1993 federal election, Mr. Bouchard was re-elected the member for Lac-Saint-Jean and became Leader of the official Opposition.

In January 1996, he resigned from the House of Commons, announced that he was joining the Parti Québécois, and was proclaimed the party's chairman. Mr. Bouchard was sworn in as Premier of Quebec on Jan. 29, 1996, and, on Feb. 19, he was elected the member of the national assembly for Jonquière. In the election of Nov. 30, 1998, Mr. Bouchard was re-elected Member of National Assembly for Jonquière and Premier of Quebec.

Mr. Bouchard is married to Audrey Best and they have two children.