Christine Stewart Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa

Christine Stewart was appointed Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in November 1993. She was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988, representing the Ontario riding of Northumberland.

Mrs. Stewart was the Liberal caucus Critic for the Canadian International Development Agency and Associate Critic for Human Rights. She was Vice-Chair of the Liberal Caucus Committee for External Affairs and Defence, as well as being a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

Mrs. Stewart was a member of both the Sub-Committee on Development and Human Rights and the Sub-Committee on Arms Export. From 1988-90, Mrs. Stewart was a member of the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of the Disabled.

Mrs. Stewart is a past executive director of the Horizons of Friendship Centre, a non-sectarian charity supporting development programs in Central America. A nurse, she has worked for the Cobourg District General Hospital and the Victorian Order of Nurses. During 1971 and 1972, Mrs. Stewart lived in Honduras doing development work.

Between 1982 and 1987, she served as a member and Chair of the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Committee for the Canadian Council of International Cooperation. She was a member of the African Emergency Aid Project Selection Committee. She was also a delegate to the United Nations Special Session on the Crisis in Africa and to the International Forum on the Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Her community activities include serving as a member of the Board of Directors for the Northumberland County Food Banks Program and the Chair of the Northumberland Coalition Against Media Pornography.

Mrs. Stewart received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Toronto in 1963. Mrs. Stewart and her husband have three children.