

Provincial Premiers

Michael D. Harris Premier of Ontario

Michael D. (Mike) Harris was born in Toronto in 1945, grew up in Callander, Ontario, and now resides in North Bay.

Prior to entering public life, Mr. Harris worked in the tourism and recreation businesses, owning and operating ventures in the Nipissing and Parry Sound regions, including a tourist resort and a ski centre.

A former school teacher, he served for seven years on the Nipissing Board of Education, four of them as chair, and served one term as president of the Northern Ontario School Trustees' Association.

Mr. Harris was elected to the Ontario legislature in 1981 as the member for Nipissing. In 1985, he was appointed to the cabinet as Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy. While in Opposition, he served as Conservative House Leader and had responsibility as critic for revenue, labour, housing, finance and northern development.

He was elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario in 1990. He became Premier of Ontario on June 26, 1995, having led the party to a majority victory in the June 8 provincial election.

Premier Harris and his wife, Janet, have two children.