

Ralph Klein

Premier of Alberta

Ralph Klein was born in Calgary, on Nov. 1, 1942. He obtained his education in Calgary, interrupting his high school studies to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After leaving the service, Mr. Klein continued his education and eventually became principal of the Calgary Business College.

From 1963 to 1969, Mr. Klein worked in public relations with the Red Cross and the United Way. He later became a radio and television journalist and was Calgary's mayor from 1980 to 1989.

In March 1989, shortly after he was elected a member of the legislative assembly for Calgary-Elbow, Mr. Klein was appointed Environment Minister. In December 1992, Mr. Klein was elected Leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party and became Premier. He was re-elected to the legislative assembly in June 1993. Mr. Klein and his government were returned to office in elections held on March 11, 1997.

Mr. Klein received the Order of St. John in 1986 and was inducted into the Olympic Order in 1988. In 1994, he was named Man of the Year by the International Young Entrepreneurs. In 1995, he was named Calgary's Outstanding Citizen of the Century and was the first recipient of the Fraser Institute's International Fiscal Performance Award.

Mr. Klein and his wife, Colleen, have five children.