

Gilbert Parent
Speaker of the House of Commons

Gilbert Parent was elected Speaker of the House of Commons on January 17, 1994. He is the second Speaker in Canadian history to be elected by a secret ballot of Members of the House of Commons.

Mr. Parent was born on July 25, 1935, in Mattawa, Ontario. He holds a B.Sc. from St. Joseph's College, Indiana (USA); an M.A. from Niagara University, New York (USA); and an M.Ed. from the State University of New York at Buffalo (USA). In 1995, St. Joseph's College and Niagara University each awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws.

An educator and administrator, Mr. Parent was first elected to Parliament in 1974. He was re-elected in 1979, 1980, 1988 and again in 1993. He represents the Ontario riding of Welland-St. Catharines-Thorold.

He has served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (1977-1979), as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (1981-1983), and as chairman of numerous legislative committees. From 1980-1983, he was Chairman of the National Liberal Caucus. He was appointed Opposition Critic for Youth in 1989 and Opposition Critic for Labour in 1992.

He has been an active member of the Canada-U.S. Parliamentary Association, the Canada-France Parliamentary Association, and the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association. He has represented Canada at the United Nations and at Congresses of the International Labour Organization in Geneva.

Mr. Parent and his wife Joan have four children.