

Sheila Copps

Minister of Canadian Heritage

Sheila Copps was born in Hamilton on Nov. 27, 1952. She earned an honours bachelor degree in French and English from the University of Western Ontario and pursued further studies at McMaster University and the University of Rouen in France.

Ms. Copps worked as a journalist with the Hamilton Spectator and the Ottawa Citizen and is the author of an autobiographical look at the world of Canadian politics.

Ms. Copps entered provincial politics in 1981 and represented the riding of Hamilton Centre. In 1984, she ran for federal office and was elected to the House of Commons as the Liberal member for Hamilton East. She has been re-elected in five successive elections.

Following the 1993 federal election, Ms. Copps was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment. She has served as Minister of Canadian Heritage since 1996.

Ms. Copps and her husband, Austin Thorne, have four children.