

Ralph Klein Premier of Alberta

Ralph Klein was born in Calgary, Alberta, on Nov. 1, 1942. He obtained his education in Calgary, interrupting his high school studies to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Upon leaving the service, Mr. Klein continued his education, eventually becoming 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.

As Calgary's mayor from 1980 to 1989, Mr. Klein focused on the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, the city's light rail transit system, and protection of the Bow River.

In March 1989, shortly after he was elected member of the legislative assembly for Calgary-Elbow, Mr. Klein was appointed environment minister.

Mr. Klein was elected leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party in December 1992 and became premier on Dec. 16 of that year. Albertans gave the Premier a new mandate on June 15, 1993.

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.

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