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Appointment of Canada's next Governor General

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau announced on October 5 the appointment of Mr. Jules Léger as the next Governor General of Canada succeeding Mr. Roland Michener, who retires in January. Mr. Michener has been Governor General since April 1967, his five-year term having been extended twice.



Jules Léger, 21st Governor General

Mr. Léger, at present Canada's Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, will be the fourth Canadian-born Governor General. Since 1952, the post has been filled alternately by French- and English-speaking Canadians.

A number of probable names had been speculated on for the position of Governor General, including former Ambassador to the United Nations George Ignatieff; Ambassador to France Leo Cadieux; Ambassador to the United States Marcel Cadieux; Speaker of the House of Commons Lucien Lamoureux; and former Chief of Defence Staff General J.V. Allard.

Career

Jules Léger was born in Saint-Anicet, Quebec, in 1913 and was educated at

Valleyfield College, the University of Montreal, where he obtained a law degree, and at the Sorbonne in Paris, where he took a doctorate in literature.

On his return to Canada, Mr. Léger was associate editor of the Ottawa newspaper *Le Droit* from 1938 to 1939. The next year he joined the Department of External Affairs and was seconded to the office of the Prime Minister, W.L. Mackenzie King, who was also Secretary of State for External Affairs. From 1940 to 1942, he was professor of the history of diplomacy at the University of Ottawa.

Mr. Léger was a member of the Canadian mission in Chile from 1943 to 1947. In February of that year he was appointed to London and in 1948 he acted as adviser to the Canadian delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris. In 1949 he returned to Ottawa as executive assistant to Prime Minister Louis S. Saint-Laurent.

In August 1950 he became chief of the External Affairs European Division and the following February he became an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. In October 1953 he was appointed Ambassador to Mexico, returning in August 1954 to become Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, a post he held until November 1958, when he was made Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization for European Economic Co-operation in Paris. Mr. Léger took part in all the spring and winter ministerial meetings of NATO from 1958 until 1962, and in the 1959 Atlantic Congress in London.

In 1962 Mr. Léger was appointed Ambassador to Italy, and in 1964 he became Ambassador to France. He assumed the position of Under-Secretary of State in 1968, with responsibilities in the fields of arts and cultural support, bilingualism, education and citizenship.

In March 1973, Mr. Léger was appointed to his present position as Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg.

Married to Gaby Carmel since 1938,