

Patrick Binns

Premier of Prince Edward Island

Patrick Binns was born on Oct. 8, 1948. He received a master of arts degree in community development from the University of Alberta in 1971.

Mr. Binns worked as a development officer for the Government of Alberta. In 1972, he moved to Prince Edward Island and worked for the province's Rural Development Council.

While working for the provincial government from 1974 to 1978, Mr. Binns helped create and run the eastern region services centres. In 1978, he received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

Mr. Binns was elected to the P.E.I. legislative assembly in 1978. From 1979 to 1984, he held several cabinet posts, including Industry, Municipal Affairs, Fisheries, Environment, Labour, and Housing, and had responsibilities for Economic Development. From 1984 to 1988, Mr. Binns served as a federal Member of Parliament, representing the P.E.I. riding of Cardigan, and was a member of the standing committees on agriculture and fisheries. He also served as parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

From 1986 to 1996, Mr. Binns worked in the private sector as president of both Island Bean Limited and Pat Binns and Associates.

Mr. Binns was elected as a member of P.E.I.'s legislative assembly for Murray River-Gasperaux, in the general election of Nov. 18, 1996. He was sworn in as P.E.I.'s 31st Premier on Nov. 27, 1996.

Mr. Binns and his wife, Carol, have four children.