

Christine Stewart
Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa

Christine Stewart (née Leishman) was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on Jan. 1, 1941. She received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Toronto in 1963.

Mrs. Stewart has worked for the Cobourg District General Hospital and the Victorian Order of Nurses.

During 1971 and 1972, Mrs. Stewart lived in Honduras where she did development work. She was executive director of the Horizons of Friendship Centre, a non-sectarian charity supporting development programs in Central America.

Between 1982 and 1987, Mrs. Stewart served as a member and as chair of the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Committee for the Canadian Council for International Co-operation. She was a member of the African Emergency Aid Project Selection Committee and was a delegate to the United Nations Special Session on the Crisis in Africa and to the International Forum on the Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Mrs. Stewart was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988, representing the Ontario riding of Northumberland. She has served on the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade and on Commons sub-committees on Development and Human Rights and on Arms Exports. From 1988 to 1990, she was a member of the Commons Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of the Disabled.

Mrs. Stewart was re-elected in 1993 and appointed Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa in November of that year.

She married David Ian Stewart in 1963. They have three children.