

Maria Minna

Minister for International Cooperation

Maria Minna was born on March 14, 1948, in Pofi (Frosinone) Italy and immigrated to Canada at age nine. She is an honours graduate in sociology from the University of Toronto.

Ms. Minna has long been active on behalf of immigrants, visible minorities and women. She served for 11 years as president of Canada's largest immigrant services organization and was a founding member of the National Action Committee on Immigrant and Visible Minority Women. She is also a former president of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians and a past director of the National Council on Welfare.

As vice-president of the consulting firm, MacBain Public Affairs, Ms. Minna chaired the Task Force on Service Delivery and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Worker's Compensation Board of Ontario. She has also been a member of several charitable organizations, including the United Way of Greater Toronto and the Women's Legal, Education and Action Fund.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1993, Ms. Minna has served as vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development and parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. She is the member of Parliament for the Toronto riding of Beaches–East York.

Ms. Minna was named Minister for International Cooperation on Aug. 3, 1999.

Maria Minna and her husband, Robert MacBain, have two children.