

Catherine Callbeck

Premier of Prince Edward Island

Born on July 25, 1939, Catherine Callbeck received a bachelor of commerce degree from Mount Allison University in 1960 and a bachelor of education degree from Dalhousie University in 1963. She also completed post-graduate courses in business administration at Syracuse University.

After teaching business in New Brunswick and Ontario, Ms. Callbeck returned to Prince Edward Island where she became involved with the family business, Callbeck's Ltd., of Central Bedeque.

She was elected to the Prince Edward Island legislative assembly in 1974 as the member for the Fourth District of Prince. From 1974 to 1978, she served as Minister of Health and Social Services and as minister responsible for the disabled. In 1978, she returned to the family business.

Ms. Callbeck was elected the federal member of Parliament for Malpeque in 1988 and served as the official Opposition critic for consumer and corporate affairs; energy, mines and resources; financial institutions and as the associate critic for privatization and regulatory affairs.

Ms. Callbeck was elected leader of the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island on January 23, 1993 and was sworn in as Premier and as President of the Executive Council on January 25, 1993. She was elected as the member of the legislative assembly for the First District of Queens in the general election of March 29, 1993.

Premier Callbeck is the first woman in Canada to be elected a provincial premier.