

Raymond Chan
Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)

Raymond Chan was first elected to the House of Commons on October 25, 1993, representing the British Columbia riding of Richmond. He was subsequently appointed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien as Canada's first Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific). Mr. Chan is the first person of Chinese descent to be a member of the Privy Council of Canada and the highest ranking Asian-born politician in the Western world.

Since his appointment, Mr. Chan has travelled to almost every country in his portfolio. He has emphasized, before a wide variety of political, business, academic and media audiences, the priority Canada attaches to the Asia Pacific region.

A professional engineer, Mr. Chan worked at the TRIUMF Research Centre at the University of British Columbia from 1977 to 1993. A businessman, Mr. Chan also owned and operated two restaurants from 1974 to 1989. In 1989, he founded and chaired the Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement.

Mr. Chan received a Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Physics from the University of British Columbia. He and Maureen, his wife of 20 years, have a twelve-year-old daughter and an eight-year-old son. Mr. Chan came to Canada from Hong Kong in 1969 and became a Canadian citizen in 1974.