

Rey Pagtakhan

Secretary of State (Asia–Pacific)

Rey Pagtakhan was born on Jan. 7, 1935, in Manila, the Philippines. He graduated from the University of the Philippines and completed postgraduate studies at the University of Manitoba and at the Washington University Medical Center.

A physician, professor of pediatrics, and lung disease specialist, he is a former director of the Manitoba Cystic Fibrosis Centre and president of the Manitoba Pediatric Society.

A past president of the United Council of Filipino Associations in Canada, Mr. Pagtakhan has also been vice-president and chair of the board of directors of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council.

Mr. Pagtakhan was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988 as the Liberal Party of Canada candidate for the Manitoba riding of Winnipeg North–St. Paul. He was re-elected in 1993, 1997 and 2000.

From 1996 to 1998, Mr. Pagtakhan served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

On Jan. 9, 2001, Mr. Pagtakhan was appointed Secretary of State (Asia–Pacific).

Mr. Pagtakhan and his wife, Gloria, have four children.