

# Canada Weekly

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Canada is a better place because he lived among us — tribute to Mr. St. Laurent



*Louis Stephen St. Laurent*

“I have never known a finer gentleman, or one who had a greater sense of public duty. His service to his country was without any thought of self, without any meanness of spirit or ever alloyed with personal or unworthy motives....One of my greatest privileges in public life was to have been so closely associated with him during these years,” wrote the late former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson last year of Mr. Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister from 1948-1957, who passed away at the age of 91 on July 25. Both men died within seven months of each other.

Louis Stephen St. Laurent, who was 66 years old when he became Prime Minister of Canada was buried on July 28, in Compton, Quebec, where he was born.

Included in the honorary pall-bearers at the Quebec Basilica, where the funeral service was held, were Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau,

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp, Transport Minister Jean Marchand, Senate Leader Paul Martin, and Paul Hellyer, former Associate Defence Minister in Mr. St. Laurent's Cabinet.

Many Canadians will remember some of the achievements of the St. Laurent Government — old age pensions for persons over 70, the accession of Newfoundland into Confederation, the appointment of the Royal Commission on Arts, Letters and Sciences, which led to the establishment of the Canada Council, federal grants to universities and the support of scientific research, the appointment of the first Canadian Governor General, Vincent Massey, the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

## Career

Mr. St. Laurent was born on February 1, 1882, of French-Canadian and Irish-Canadian parentage and he was educated at St. Charles College, Sherbrooke, Quebec, and at Laval University, Quebec City, where he graduated in law. In June 1914, he was appointed professor of law at Laval. He was created King's Counsel the following year.

In January 1946, he was made a member of the Imperial Privy Council.

He was President of the Canadian Bar Association from 1930-32 and Honorary Life President of the Association.

In 1941, Mr. St. Laurent succeeded the late Ernest Lapointe as Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Canada. He was elected to the House of Commons in the Quebec East constituency in a 1942 by-election and re-elected in the general elections of 1945, 1949 and 1953.

Mr. St. Laurent's appointment as Secretary of State for External Affairs was announced on September 4, 1946. He continued to serve as