

Roméo LeBlanc

Governor-General of Canada

Roméo LeBlanc was born in Memramcook (L'Anse-aux-Cormier), New Brunswick, in 1927. He was educated at l'Université Saint-Joseph, Memramcook, where he obtained a bachelor of arts in 1948 and a bachelor of education in 1951. He also attended the University of Paris from 1953 to 1955, where he studied French civilization.

Mr. LeBlanc was a teacher for seven years in the 1950s. In 1960, he began a career in journalism and became a correspondent for Radio-Canada in Ottawa, the United Kingdom and the United States. In 1965, he became the founding president of the CBC/Radio-Canada Correspondents' Association.

Mr. LeBlanc served as press secretary to Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson from 1967 to 1968 and to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau from 1968 to 1971. From 1971 to 1972, he was the assistant to the president and director of public relations at l'Université de Moncton.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1972 to represent Westmorland-Kent, New Brunswick, Mr. LeBlanc was Minister of State (Fisheries) from 1974 to 1976; Minister of Fisheries and the Environment from 1976 to 1979; Minister of Fisheries and Oceans from 1980 to 1982; and Minister of Public Works and Minister Responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the National Capital Commission from 1982 to 1984. From 1974 to 1979, he was also a member of the delegation to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference.

Mr. LeBlanc was named to the Senate in 1984. While a senator, he was a member of the Canada-France Parliamentary Association and the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians. He was appointed Speaker of the Senate in 1993.

Mr. LeBlanc became Governor General of Canada on Feb. 8, 1995.

Mr. LeBlanc is married to Diana Fowler. They have four children.