

Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn

Ramon Hnatyshyn was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on March 16, 1934. He obtained a BA and LLB from the University of Saskatchewan, and served while studying (1951-56) in the Royal Canadian Air Force's reserve training plan. He later became a member of the 23 Wing Auxiliary in Saskatoon (1956-58).

Mr. Hnatyshyn was called to the bar of Saskatchewan in 1957. He was private secretary and executive assistant (1958-60) to the leader of the government in the Senate.

Returning to his law practice in 1960, he also served as president of the North Saskatchewan branch of the United Nations Association of Canada. He was sessional lecturer in law at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan (1966-74), and bencher of the Law Society (1970-74). In 1973 he was appointed Queen's counsel for Saskatchewan and served as president of the Law Society of Saskatchewan (1973-74).

Mr. Hnatyshyn was elected to the House of Commons in 1974, representing the riding of Saskatoon-Biggar. He was subsequently reelected in the riding of Saskatoon West in the general elections of 1979, 1980 and 1984.

In 1979 Mr. Hnatyshyn was appointed minister of state for science and technology and minister of energy, mines and resources. He served as government house leader (1984-86), president of the Queen's Privy Council (1985-86), minister responsible for regulatory affairs (1986), and minister of justice and attorney general of Canada (1986-88).

In 1988 Mr. Hnatyshyn was appointed Queen's counsel for Canada. On January 29, 1990 he was sworn in as Canada's 24th governor general since Confederation and the seventh Canadian to hold the office.

Mr. Hnatyshyn has been an active volunteer in the United Way, the United Community Funds and the Saskatoon Gallery and Conservatory Corporation.

Mr. Hnatyshyn is married to Karen Gerda Nygaard Andreasen and they have two sons.