



New Cabinet Announced - Six New Members and Significant Restructuring

On June 16, 2005, the new government's twenty-three member Cabinet was sworn in to the Provincial Legislature. In addition to the Premier, 19 Ministers and three Ministers of State (Intergovernmental Relations, Childcare and Mining) comprise the new streamlined and restructured Cabinet. Six new members joined Cabinet: Wally Oppal as Attorney General; Carole Taylor as Minister of Finance; Claude Richmond as Minister of Employment and Income Assistance; Bill Bennett as Minister of State for Mining; Barry Penner as Minister of Environment and Olga Illich as Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts. As well, the following three Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed: Dave Hayer for Multiculturalism and Immigration; Richard Lee for the Asia-Pacific Initiative; and Val Roddick for Agriculture Planning.

As noted, the Ministry structure has undergone major change with a reduced number of ministries and significant changes in both names and areas of responsibility. The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management no longer exists and its various responsibilities have been moved to other ministries. As well, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has undergone some restructuring and is now the Ministry of Environment. There is a new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, as well as a stand-alone Ministry of Economic Development.

Of key interest to local government is the new Ministry of Community Services (and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues). Honourable Ida Chong was appointed Minister. While the Ministry retains Women's Services, Seniors moves back into the Ministry and the Aboriginal Services portfolio has now been moved to the stand-alone Ministry of Aboriginal

Relations and Reconciliation, under Tom Christenson, former Minister of Education.

The Ministry of Community Services has been designated the following responsibilities:

- Community Charter
- Local government
- Vancouver Urban Development Agreement
- University Endowment Lands
- Canada/BC Infrastructure Program
- Building policy
- Safety standards and inspections
- Office of the Fire Commissioner
- Seniors' and women's services
- Community adjustment

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions falling under the purview of the Ministry include:

- Building Code Appeal Board
- Homeowner Protection Office
- Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues

Other shifts in Cabinet responsibilities of interest to local government include:

- treaty negotiations and interim measures (Attorney General) moves to new Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Ministry
- libraries (MCAWS) moves to Ministry of Education
- heritage (MCAWS) moves to Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts
- housing (MCAWS) moves to Ministry of Forests and Minister Responsible for Housing
- Lands, formerly Land and Water BC, (Sustainable Resource Mgmt) moves to Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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New Cabinet cont...

- Land Reserve Commission (Sustainable Resource Management) moves to Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- BC Assessment Authority (Sustainable Resource Management) moves to Ministry of Small Business and Revenue
- multiculturalism programs (MCAWS) and immigration moves to Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism
- resort development (Small Business and Economic Development) moves to Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts
- tourism (Small Business and Economic Development) moves to Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts
- film commissions (Small Business and Economic Development) move to Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts

- fisheries and aquaculture (Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) moves to Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- forest recreation sites and trails (Forests) moves to Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts
- recreational fish and wildlife recreation promotion (WLAP) moves to Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts

Seven of the 23 members of Cabinet have former local government experience, including Premier Gordon Campbell and Ministers Ida Chong, George Abbott, Murray Coell, Carole Taylor, John Les and Claude Richmond.

NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTER

Ida Chong was appointed Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues on June 16, 2005. She previously served as Minister of Advanced Education and Minister of State for Women's and Seniors' Services.

Ms. Chong was first elected in 1996 in the riding of Oak Bay-Gordon Head and was re-elected in 2001 and 2005.

Ms. Chong proudly retains her credentials as a Certified General Accountant and has won several awards for her work in this field for service at a chapter level, as well as for service on a provincial committee. In 1999, she was awarded the CGA Community Service Award.

Ms. Chong has worked extensively in public practice, and from 1985 to 2003 was senior partner in an

accounting practice in Saanich. She also found time to volunteer for several non-profit organizations, serving as a board member.

Ms. Chong first entered political life as a municipal councillor for the District of Saanich in 1993. In her first term in provincial politics, she served as the Official Opposition critic for Small Business, Tourism and Culture, the Deputy Critic of Finance, the Deputy Critic for Women's Equality and Chair of the Official Opposition Committee on the Economy.

Since the 2001 election, Ms. Chong has served on many government

committees. She has been chair of the Government Caucus Committee on Economy and Government Operations, as well as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, and the Special Committee on the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.



Honourable Ida Chong

She currently serves on Treasury Board, the Government Caucus Committee on Education and the Government Caucus Committee on Cross Government Initiatives.

THE NEW PROVINCIAL CABINET IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

Premier – Hon. Gordon Campbell

Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations – Hon. John van Dongen

Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
– Hon. Tom Christensen

Minister of Advanced Education
(and Minister Responsible for Research and Technology)
– Hon. Murray Coell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands
– Hon. Pat Bell

Attorney General
(and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism)
– Hon. Wally Oppal

Minister of Children and Family Development
– Hon. Stan Hagen

Minister of State for Childcare
– Hon. Linda Reid

Minister of Community Services
(and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues)
– Hon. Ida Chong

Minister of Economic Development
(and Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative and the Olympics)
– Hon. Colin Hansen

Minister of Education and Deputy Premier
(and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy)
– Hon. Shirley Bond

Minister of Employment and Income Assistance
– Hon. Claude Richmond

Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

– Hon. Richard Neufeld

Minister of State for Mining
– Hon. Bill Bennett

Minister of Environment
(and Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities)
– Hon. Barry Penner

Minister of Finance
– Hon. Carole Taylor

Minister of Forests and Range
(and Minister Responsible for Housing)
– Hon. Rich Coleman

Minister of Health
– Hon. George Abbott

Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services and Government House Leader
– Hon. Mike De Jong

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
– Hon. John Les

Minister of Small Business and Revenue
(and Minister Responsible for Deregulation)
– Hon. Rick Thorpe

Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts
– Hon. Olga Ilich

Minister of Transportation
– Hon. Kevin Falcon

Biographies of all members of the Executive Council are available online at
www.gov.bc.ca.

DEPUTY MINISTERS

Office of the Premier

Jessica McDonald, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Dana Hayden, Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Natural Resources and the Economy

Philip Steenkamp, Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Social Development

Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Lorne Brownsey, Deputy Minister

Joy Illington, Associate Deputy Minister

Ministry of Advanced Education

Moura Quayle, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Laurence Pedersen, Deputy Minister

Mike Lambert, Associate Deputy Minister, Integrated Land Management Agency

Ministry of Attorney General

Allan Seckel, Deputy Attorney General

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Alison MacPhail, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Community Services

Sheila Wynn, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Economic Development

Andrew Wilkinson, Deputy Minister

Annette Antoniak, Associate Deputy Minister, Olympics

Ministry of Education

Emery Dosedall, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance

Cairine MacDonald, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Greg Reimer, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Environment

Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister

Joan Hesketh, Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office

Ministry of Finance

Tamara Vrooman, Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board

Bob de Faye, Associate Deputy Minister, Public Sector Employers' Council

Ministry of Forests and Range

Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister

Lori Wanamaker, Associate Deputy Minister, Housing

Ministry of Health

Penny Ballem, Deputy Minister

David Woodward, Associate Deputy Minister

Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

Gord Macatee, Deputy Minister

Rick Connolly, Associate Deputy Minister, Labour

James Gorman, Associate Deputy Minister, Public Service Operations Agency

Diane Rabbani, Associate Deputy Minister, Public Service Agency

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

David Morhart, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

Robin Ciceri, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

Andrew Wilkinson, Acting Deputy Minister

Ministry of Transportation

John Dyble, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Environment is Back

The new Ministry of Environment assumes many of the responsibilities of the former Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. The Ministry's creation reflects one of the Golden Decade goals announced in the 2005 Speech from the Throne, which is to have BC lead the work in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality.

Barry Penner was appointed the new Minister of Environment and Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities. He was first elected MLA for the riding of Chilliwack-Kent in 1996 and was re-elected in 2001 and 2005. Mr. Penner has previously served as

Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader, and as a member of the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources and the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Mr. Penner assumes the Environment portfolio with a breadth of experience. He is a lawyer by profession, and he has experience as a park ranger and sawmill worker. Mr. Penner also Co-Chairs BC's Alternative Energy and Power Technology Task Force.

The Ministry's general responsibilities include:

- Parks, wilderness and protected areas
- Air, land and water pollution prevention and waste mgmt

- Fish and wildlife habitat and species protection
- Compliance and enforcement
- Water quality
- Water allocation
- Drought management
- Dam and dyke safety and regulation
- Flood plain management
- Ocean management strategy
- Watershed restoration
- Environmental emergencies
- Conservation Officer Service
- Environmental Assessment Office
- State of Environment reporting
- Sustainable Communities Initiative

The major Agencies, Boards and Commissions falling under the Ministry include the Environmental Appeal Board and the Forest Appeals Commission.

New Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts

In its 2005 Throne Speech, the provincial government identified some key goals for a Golden Decade; healthy living and physical fitness, doubling tourism revenues within the next 10 years and new investments and programs to support and celebrate our diverse heritage in music, art, culture and sport. These three areas have now found a home under one ministry - the new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.

Olga Illich, a newcomer to Cabinet and government has been tasked with responsibility for the Ministry. As the new MLA for Richmond Centre, Ms Illich's varied background includes: President of Suncor Development Corporation, a real estate development and construction company; Chair of the BC Assessment Authority; director of UBC Properties Investment Ltd.; director of the Vancouver International Airport Authority; and President of the Urban Development Institute, Pacific Region.

The major Agencies, Boards and Commissions falling under the Ministry include:

- Tourism BC
- Provincial Capital Commission
- BC Arts Council
- BC Games Society
- Royal BC Museum Corporation
- BC Pavilion Corporation
- Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Project

The Ministry's general responsibilities include:

- Tourism strategy
- Heritage conservation
- Archaeology
- Forest recreation sites and trails
- Recreational fish and wildlife recreation promotion
- Arts and Culture programs
- Sports and recreation
- Commercial and public recreation
- Resorts and alpine ski developments
- Film policy and classification
- Volunteer