

The Honourable David Anderson, P.C., M.P.

Minister of the Environment

Born in Victoria, British Columbia on August 16, 1937, Mr. Anderson received his law degree from the University of British Columbia (UBC). During his days at UBC he won silver medals at the Rome Olympic and the Chicago Pan-American Games (rowing). Mr. Anderson did two years of post graduate studies at the Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Hong Kong where he became fluent in Mandarin.

Mr. Anderson entered political life in 1968, following six years with the Department of External Affairs, serving in Indochina, Hong Kong and Ottawa.

From 1968 to 1972, during his time as Member of Parliament (MP) for Esquimalt-Saanich, Mr. Anderson founded and chaired the Special Committee on Environmental Pollution. In 1972, he was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for Victoria and sat in the Legislative Assembly as the leader of the Liberal Party of British Columbia until December of 1975.

In 1979 Mr. Anderson worked as an environmental consultant and adjunct professor at the University of Victoria's School of Public Administration. His environmental work focused on coastal and wetland protection and marine pollution from oil transportation and exploration. During this time he also served on several government commissions and boards, including as a member of the Immigration Appeal Board, as the sole commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry into Fraser Valley Petroleum Exploration, and as an advisor to the Premier of British Columbia on tanker traffic and oil spills.

In 1993, Mr. Anderson was elected Liberal MP for Victoria. He was appointed Minister of National Revenue and political Minister for British Columbia. In 1996, he was appointed Minister of Transport.

Mr. Anderson was re-elected as MP for Victoria in June 1997 and was immediately appointed Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Mr. Anderson has been recognized internationally for his efforts on behalf of conservation, particularly salmon conservation, on both coasts. He secured, for the first time in many years, an allocation agreement with the United States under the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. As Minister, Mr. Anderson also established Canada's first Marine Protected Areas and initiated efforts to improve boating safety.

On August 3, 1999, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced the appointment of Mr. Anderson as Minister of the Environment. On February 5, 2001, Mr. Anderson became the first Canadian ever elected as President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the leading international forum for governments to address current and emerging environmental issues. Mr. Anderson's priorities as Minister have been improving air and water quality, protecting biodiversity (including endangered species) and negotiating, securing and implementing Canadian ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

On December 12, 2003, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced the re-appointment of Mr. Anderson as Minister of the Environment and political minister for British Columbia in his first Cabinet.