Advisory Board Members

Rona Ambrose
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
2015-2017

Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
2015-2021

John Baird
Minister of Foreign Affairs
2011-2015

James Blanchard
United States Ambassador to Canada
1993–1996

Scott Brison
President of the Treasury Board
2015-2019

Derek Burney
Canadian Ambassador to the United States
1989-1993

John de Chastelain
Canadian Ambassador to the United States
1993-1994

Raymond Chrétien
Canadian Ambassador to the United States
1994-2000

Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
2011-2017

David L. Cohen
United States Ambassador to Canada
2021-2025

Kelly Craft
US Ambassador to the United Nations
2019-2021

Kenneth Curtis
United States Ambassador to Canada
1979-1981

Howard Dean
Governor of Vermont
1991-2003

Gary Doer
Canadian Ambassador to the United States
2009-2016

Gordon D. Giffin
United States Ambassador to Canada
1997-2001

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
2015-2019

Christine Gregoire
Governor of Washington State
2005-2013

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator for North Dakota
2013-2019

David Jacobson
United States Ambassador to Canada
2009-2013

Michael Kergin
Canadian Ambassador to the United States
2000-2006

Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
2009-2013

Chief Wilton Littlechild
Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations
2017-2019

John Manley
Deputy Prime Minister
2002-2003

Sergio Marchi
Minister of International Trade
1997-1999

Barbara McDougall
Member of Cabinet
1984-1993

Frank McKenna
Canadian Ambassador to the United States
2005-2006

James Moore
Minister of Industry
2013-2015

Bill Owens
United States House of Representatives
2009-2015

Lisa Raitt
Minister of Transport
2013-2015

Edward G. Rendell
Governor of Pennsylvania
2003-2011

Paul H. Robinson
United States Ambassador to Canada
1981-1985

Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
2007-2018

David Wilkins
United States Ambassador to Canada
2005-2009

The Honourable Rona Ambrose

Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada (2015-2017)

The Honourable Rona Ambrose is the former Leader of Canada's Official Opposition in the House of Commons and former leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. As a key member of the cabinet for a decade, she served as a cabinet minister across nine Canadian government departments. Her service included the role of Vice Chair of the Treasury Board and Chair of the Cabinet Committee for Public Safety, Justice and Aboriginal issues. Ms. Ambrose also served as a Minister responsible for the Status of Women and continues to be a passionate champion for the rights of women and girls, recently recognized as 1 of 100 "Impossible to Ignore" Global Woman Leaders by the United Nations.

Her lifelong efforts to end violence against women are central to her advocacy, including championing legislation to improve the education of judges in sexual assault laws. She was the catalyst for the creation of United Nations International Day of the Girl which is celebrated around the world to promote gender equality. She has received several awards over the years for her advocacy and public policy work.

In addition to serving on several public and private corporate boards, Ms. Ambrose is also a Global Fellow at the Wilson Center's Canada Institute in Washington D.C. focusing on Canada- U.S. bilateral trade and North American competitiveness issues. She also serves on the advisory board of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, is a member of the Prime Minister of Canada's NAFTA renegotiation panel and a member of the Trilateral Commission. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria and a Master's in Political Science from the University of Alberta. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Senior Leaders Program.

The Honourable Navdeep Bains

Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry (2015-2021)

The Honourable Navdeep Bains is Chief Corporate Affairs Officer for Rogers Communications. In this role, Navdeep leads the Public Policy and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) efforts for the company, drawing on his deep expertise in policy matters to advance critical issues, including the digital divide and Canada's digital economy.

Prior to joining Rogers, Navdeep served as Vice-Chair in Global Investment Banking for CIBC, where he was responsible for strengthening all Capital Markets and Commercial Banking with a particular focus on Innovation, Sustainability, and Industrial sectors. He joined CIBC after serving as one of the longest serving federal Ministers of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, where he introduced the most comprehensive innovation and skills plan for Canada in over three decades.

Previously, Navdeep was a distinguished visiting professor at Toronto Metropolitan University's Ted Rogers School of Management, an adjunct lecturer at the Master of Public Service program at the University of Waterloo and worked for several years in accounting and finance for the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

He holds a Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant designation and has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Windsor and a Bachelor of Commerce from York University.

The Honourable John R. Baird

Minister of Foreign Affairs (2011-2015)

The Honourable John Baird is a Senior Advisor at Bennett Jones LLP and a former Senior Cabinet Minister in the Government of Canada. An instrumental figure in bilateral trade and investment relationships, Baird has played a leading role in the Canada-China dialogue and worked to build ties with ASEAN countries. In addition, Baird has worked closely with international leaders to strengthen security and economic ties with the United States and Middle Eastern countries.

A native of Ottawa, Canada, Baird spent three terms as a Member of Parliament and four years as Foreign Minister. He also served as President of the Treasury Board, Minister of the Environment, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. Prior to entering federal politics, Baird spent ten years in the Ontario Legislature where he served as Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister of Energy, and Government House Leader.

In addition to his work with Bennett Jones, Baird sits on the advisory board of Barrick Gold Corp., the corporate boards of Canadian Pacific, Canadian Forest Products (Canfor), the FWD Group and PineBridge Investments. He also serves as a Global Strategic Advisor to Hatch Ltd, a Canadian global multidisciplinary management, engineering, and development consultancy, and is a Senior Advisor at Eurasia Group, a global political risk consultancy.

Baird also volunteers his time with Community Living Ontario, an organization that supports individuals with developmental disabilities, the Prince's Charities, the charitable office of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and is a board member of the Friends of Israel Initiative. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

The Honorable James J. Blanchard

United States Ambassador to Canada (1993-1996)

The Honorable James Blanchard is a senior partner at the global law firm, DLA Piper and serves as the chairman of the National Archives Foundation. Blanchard joined DLA Piper upon the conclusion of his duties as United States Ambassador to Canada in April 1996.

Blanchard was named Ambassador to Canada in May 1993, after serving two terms as governor of Michigan (1983 to 1991) and four terms as a member of the United States Congress. In 1992, he chaired President Bill Clinton's successful campaign in Michigan.

Blanchard is also former chairman of the Democratic Governors Association and the National Democratic Platform Committee, as well as a former member of the National Governors Association's executive committee.

Before running for governor, Blanchard served in Congress. His major assignments included the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, as well as its subcommittees on Economic Stabilization, Housing and Urban Development, International Trade and Domestic Monetary Policy. He also served on the Science and Technology Committee. He performed oversight of the Federal Reserve Board and participated in meetings focused on the International Monetary Fund. Prior to his election to Congress, from 1969 to 1974, Blanchard was Assistant Attorney General of Michigan.

The Honourable Scott Brison

President of the Treasury Board (2015-2019)

The Honourable Scott Brison joined BMO as Vice-Chair, Investment & Corporate Banking in 2019. As an elected Member of Parliament, Scott served the constituency of Kings-Hants (Nova Scotia) who elected him to Canada's House of Commons seven consecutive times over 21 years.

During that time, Brison served in government for seven years holding key roles, most recently as President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Digital Government from 2015 to 2019, Minister of Public Works and Government Services from 2004 to 2006, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with special emphasis on Canada-U.S. relations from 2003 to 2004.

In June 2020, Mr. Brison became Dalhousie University's eighth chancellor. Mr. Brison is a member of the Trilateral Commission and was named by the World Economic Forum of Davos, Switzerland, as one of its "Young Global Leaders." In August 2010, he was awarded the Order of San Carlos by Colombian President Álvaro Uribe in recognition of his contributions to the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Brison serves on the board of Bond Resources Inc., the Canada-China Business Council, the Dalhousie University Board of Governors, the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, CJPAC, the advisory board of the Canadian American Business Council and previously served as Chairman of SeaFort Capital Inc.

Mr. Brison earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Dalhousie University. He has completed the Global Leadership and Public Policy for the 21st Century Executive Education Program at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

The Honourable Derek Burney

Canadian Ambassador to the United States (1989-1993)

Ambassador Derek H. Burney is Senior Strategic Advisor to Ogilvy Renault LLP. He is Chairman of the Board for CanWest Global Communications Corp., and a visiting Professor and Senior Distinguished Fellow at Carleton University.

Upon graduation, Burney entered the federal public service and the Canadian diplomatic corps, subsequently serving in Japan and, as Ambassador, in Korea. From 1987 to 1989 Burney served as Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

After leaving the post of Chief of Staff in 1989, Burney was appointed Canada's Ambassador to the United States. In his capacity as Ambassador, Burney was directly involved in the negotiation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. He was the Prime Minister's personal representative (Sherpa) in the preparations for the Houston (1990), London (1991) and Munich (1992) G-7 Economic Summits. Burney served in the capacity as chief of staff until 1993. Burney was then hired by Bell Canada and served as Chairman and CEO of Bell Canada International Inc. from 1993 to 1999. Burney then moved to CAE Inc., serving as President and CEO until 2004.

In 2006, Burney played a key role in the transfer of power from Paul Martin's Liberal government to Harper's Conservatives. In addition to his work, Burney has sat on several boards including Can West Global Communications, Québecor World Inc., Shell Canada, TransCanada Corp, and New Brunswick Power.

In 1992, Burney was the recipient of the Public Service of Canada's Outstanding Achievement Award. Burney was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1993 and has been conferred honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Lakehead University, Queen's University, Carleton University, and Wilfrid Laurier University. Burney holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree from Queen's University.

The Honourable John de Chastelain

Canadian Ambassador to the United States (1993-1994)

Ambassador John de Chastelain served as the Canadian Ambassador to the United States from 1993 to 1994. In 1960, de Chastelain graduated from Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston, Ontario, with a degree in history and a commission in the Canadian Army. From 1970 to 1972, de Chastelain commanded the Second Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

As a colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces, de Chastelain commanded CFB Montreal for two years, then led Canada's contingent in the United Nations Force in Cyprus. Promoted to brigadier-general, de Chastelain commanded RMC, and later the Fourth Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Germany, before serving as Deputy Commander of the Canadian army and then as the assistant deputy minister of defence responsible for personnel.

In 1989, de Chastelain was promoted to general and appointed Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS). During his tenure, the Canadian military was involved in the Oka crisis, as well as overseas engagements in the first Gulf War and in Somalia. In 1994 de Chastelain was reappointed CDS, retiring from his post in December 1995. de Chastelain aided in forging the Belfast Agreement, the blueprint for peace in Northern Ireland signed on Good Friday, 1998. This culminated in elections to a Northern Ireland Assembly in March 2007, which were followed by the formation of a new government based on a power-sharing arrangement involving the principal parties. General de Chastelain was named to the Order of Canada in 1993. De Chastelain has received numerous Canadian and international awards, decorations, and honorary degrees in recognition of his public service.

The Honourable Raymond Chrétien

Canadian Ambassador to the United States (1994-2000)

Ambassador Raymond Chrétien is a Partner at Fasken Martineau. He has had assignments in Ottawa with the Privy Council Office, the Treasury Board, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Outside Canada, Chrétien served at Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Embassies in Beirut and Paris. In 1978, Chrétien was named Canada's Ambassador to Zaire with joint accreditation to Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo Republic. He returned to Ottawa in 1981 where he was respectively Policy Director for Industry, Investment and Competition, Assistant Under-Secretary of Manufacturing, Technology and Transportation and Inspector General in the Department of External Affairs. In 1985 he was appointed Canada's Ambassador to Mexico. Upon completing his service, he was awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest award the Mexican government has presented to a Canadian. He then left Mexico to be named Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, the second highest position in the Department. Chrétien served as Canada's Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg from 1991 to 1994 and, in January 1994 he became Canada's eighteenth representative to the United States of America.

In October 1996, Chrétien was appointed as the Secretary General of the United Nations' Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa to undertake an assessment of the crisis in the Great Lakes Region and to make recommendations on how the UN should respond. He presented his report and recommendations to the Security Council in December 1996. From September 2000 to November 2003, Chrétien was Ambassador of Canada to France. Upon his departure from France, he was made "Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur". He retired from the Federal Public Service at the beginning of 2004.

Chrétien attended the Séminaire de Joliette for his B.A. and Laval University for law school. In 1966, he passed the Quebec Bar examination. Later that year he joined the Legal Affairs Bureau in the Department of External Affairs.

The Honourable Christy Clark

Premier of British Columbia (2011-2017)

As Premier of British Columbia for over six years, the Honourable Christy Clark earned a well- deserved reputation as a consensus builder both within the Cabinet, and outside it. Her management style was to carefully set out a plan that included hard goals and deadlines for each Ministry and monitor progress through regular reporting to Cabinet and Committees which she chaired.

Clark's legacy is characterized by her determination to plan for future generations. Clark left British Columbia with a significantly diversified economy, a greater diversity of markets, a plan for a new, clean energy supply, billions of dollars of new infrastructure, and a dramatic reduction in the burden of public debt that will be borne by future generations of British Columbians.

When Clark left office, British Columbia had been Canada's economic leader for three years running — the first time that has happened since the 1960s. B.C. went from being ninth in job creation to first among provinces. And, after inheriting a deficit of $1.2 billion, Clark's government went on to balance five consecutive budgets. Her last budget included $52 billion in revenues and boasted a $2.8 billion surplus. When she retired, B.C. was on track to eliminating its operating debt by 2020-the first time since 1976. B.C. was also the only Canadian province with a AAA credit rating.

Clark retired from political life in 2017 as the longest serving female Premier in Canadian history and the only woman in Canada ever to be re-elected.

The Honorable David L. Cohen

United States Ambassador to Canada (2021-2025)

Nominated by President Joe Biden and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate, David L. Cohen served as the United States Ambassador to Canada from 2021 to 2025.

Before his tenure in Canada, Ambassador Cohen served as Senior Advisor to the CEO and Senior Executive Vice President of Comcast NBCUniversal, where his portfolio included corporate communications, legal affairs, government and regulatory affairs, public affairs, corporate administration, corporate real estate and security, and community impact. Ambassador Cohen also served as the company's first chief diversity officer.

Ambassador Cohen previously served as a partner in and Chair of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP. From January 1992 to April 1997, Ambassador Cohen served as Chief of Staff to the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia.

Ambassador Cohen also has served on many nonprofit boards, including as chair of: the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and its executive committee; the board of directors and the executive committee of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; the Philadelphia Theatre Company; the FIFA 2026 World Cup Philadelphia Bid Committee; the board of trustees of City Year and its executive committee; and of the corporate board of advisors of UnidosUS. Ambassador Cohen also served as a member of the board of directors of the National Urban League and of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. In addition, Ambassador Cohen served on the board of directors of the PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. and PNC Bank, National Association and as a member of the board of directors of FS Global Credit Opportunities Fund.

Ambassador Cohen has received numerous awards for his civic and charitable activities, including six honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from U.S. universities, including the University of Pennsylvania.

A native of New York, Ambassador Cohen graduated with a B.A. from Swarthmore College in 1977 and with a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, *summa cum laude,* in 1981.

Ambassador Cohen lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Rhonda R. Cohen.

The Honorable Kelly Craft

United States Ambassador to the United Nations (2019-2021)

Ambassador Kelly Craft was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to the position of Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations on February 22, 2019 and was confirmed to that position by the United States Senate on July 31, 2019. She was formally sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence on September 10, 2019.

Ambassador Craft served as the United States Ambassador to Canada from October 2017 until assumption of her USUN role in 2019. During her time as Ambassador, she worked through the complex revisiting of the NAFTA treaty, known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA.

Ambassador Kelly Craft is a leader, entrepreneur and philanthropist who has made community service and improving education the cornerstone of her career.

As a third-generation Kentuckian, Ambassador Craft served her community by assuming several leadership roles with the Salvation Army of Lexington and the Center for Rural Development, a non-profit dedicated to the economic development of rural Kentucky. She also served in similar roles in the cultural leadership of her state, working with the Kentucky Arts Council and the United Way of the Bluegrass.

With a deep commitment to education, Ambassador Craft has served on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees and co-founded the Morehead State University Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics.

In 2007, President George W. Bush appointed Ambassador Craft as an alternate delegate to the United Nations General Assembly.

In the private sector, Craft founded a successful marketing and business advisory firm providing leadership advice to businesses across the country.

Ambassador Craft is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and holds an Honorary Doctorate from Morehead State University. She and her husband, Joe Craft, who is also a native Kentuckian, share six children and eleven grandchildren.

The Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis

United States Ambassador to Canada (1979-1981)

A former two-term Governor of Maine and United States Ambassador to Canada, the Honorable Kenneth Curtis is the founding member of Curtis Thaxter and is now Of Counsel to the firm. Curtis has represented clients in energy matters, start-up businesses and international law, particularly Canadian American law. He worked with Maine, New England, Canadian and other North American companies on regional and intergovernmental affairs. His international practice also included work relating to France, Japan, and the Republic of China.

Curtis' other leadership positions include President of the Maine Maritime Academy from 1986 to 1994, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1977 to 1978, Chairman of the New England Governors' Conference from 1969 to 1970 and Chairman of the Environmental Task Force of the National Governors' Conference in the early 1970's.

Curtis has served on several boards and commissions, including the Board of Directors of KeyCorp, Bowater Incorporated, New England Telephone Co., and the Alberta Northeast Gas Limited Advisory Board.

Curtis holds a Juris Doctor from University of Maine School of Law. He also holds an LL.D. from Bates College.

The Honorable Howard B. Dean

Governor of Vermont (1991-2003)

The Honorable Howard Dean currently served as a Senior Advisor in the Public Policy and Regulation practice at Dentons where he focuses on healthcare, education, and energy issues, as well as providing expertise derived from his extensive experience in public office.

A recognized thought-leader in health care reform, Dean works with clients to navigate complicated regulations and political challenges in both the private and public sectors. Through partnering industry with business and community interests he is at the forefront of promoting high quality and affordable health care while supporting innovation.

Respected for his fiscally moderate policies as Governor, Dean understands first-hand the severe budget constraints that are challenging state and municipal governments. With an extensive set of contacts nationally, Governor Dean is uniquely positioned to develop partnerships between industry stakeholders and local governments. Dean comes to Dentons after serving as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, where he created and implemented the "50 State Strategy," encouraging the cultivation of candidates in every state at every level, rather than solely the traditionally democratic-leaning states.

Dean began his life in politics in 1982 when he was elected to the Vermont State Legislature. He transitioned from a practicing physician to a full-time career in public service when he became Governor of Vermont in 1991. Dean raised his profile in the state, culminating in 12 years of service as Vermont's governor - the second longest serving in Vermont's history. He was known for his fiscal responsibility as well as his efforts in health care reform.

Respected on both sides of the political aisle, Dean served as chairman of the National Governors' Association, the Democratic Governors' Association, as well as the New England Governors' Conference while serving as Governor. Dean left office in Vermont to run for President in 2003 where he implemented innovative fundraising strategies such as use of the internet, pioneering techniques used by both parties in the 2008 election.

The Honourable Gary Doer

Canadian Ambassador to the United States (2009-2016)

The Honourable Gary Doer is a Senior Business Advisor at Dentons. He served as the Ambassador of Canada to the United States from 2009 to 2016 and is the former NDP Premier of Manitoba, a post he held for ten years.

Currently, Doer serves as the Co-Chair for the Canada Institute Advisory Board. Prior to being elected Premier, Doer held a wide variety of Cabinet positions in the Manitoba Legislature. Doer has spent time as the Minister of Urban Affairs and Crown Investments and was also the Minister Responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System, Accountability of Crown Corporations, and the Liquor Control Act.

Doer spent nine years as the Leader of the Opposition before forming government. He was the Leader of the Manitoba New Democratic Party for twenty-one years.

Doer began his career as a Corrections Officer and studied Political Science at the University of Manitoba.

The Honorable Gordon D. Giffin

United States Ambassador to Canada (1997-2001)

Ambassador Gordon D. Giffin currently serves as Partner and Global Vice Chair of Dentons. His practice is focused on international transactions and trade matters, government procurement, energy regulatory and policy matters, corporate governance, and crisis counseling, federal and state regulatory matters and public policy. He maintains offices in Washington, DC and Atlanta, Georgia.

From August 1997 to April 2001, Giffin served as the nineteenth US Ambassador to Canada. As Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Ottawa, he managed US interests in the world's largest bi- lateral trading relationship, as well as US collaboration with Canada on global issues in international fora. He received the Superior Honor Award from the Department of State for negotiating a pre-clearance agreement. From 1975-1979, Giffin served as Legislative Director and Chief Counsel to US Senator Sam Nunn in Washington, DC.

Giffin was a recipient of the Emory University School of Law's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes outstanding alumni who have achieved distinction in legal practice, teaching, research, or public administration and has received honorary degrees granted by Canadian and US universities. He has also served as an adjunct professor of law at Emory University School of Law.

Giffin currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Carter Presidential Center and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission. He serves on the following public company Boards of Directors: Chair of TransAlta Corp; Lead Director of Canadian Natural Resources; Chair of Human Resources Committee of Canadian National Railway. He also serves on the private CIBC US Holdings Board.

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade (2017-2019)

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones served as a Liberal Member of Parliament for British Columbia's riding of West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country from 2015 to 2019. In her role as Member of Parliament, Goldsmith-Jones was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. She also served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade Diversification and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. As of May 2019, Goldsmith-Jones announced her retirement from federal politics, opting not to run for re-election in 2019.

Previously, Goldsmith-Jones served as mayor of West Vancouver from 2005 to 2011. In 2011, Goldsmith-Jones retired from municipal politics to open her own consulting business and pursue an executive MBA from Simon Fraser University in Aboriginal Businesses and Leadership.

Goldsmith-Jones holds a Bachelor of Arts and a master's degree in political science from the University of British Columbia.

The Honorable Christine Gregoire

Governor of Washington (2005-2013)

Christine Gregoire is the CEO for Challenge Seattle, an organization comprised of 17 major international companies and non-profits located in the Seattle region. Challenge Seattle is providing leadership to ensure greater Seattle is one of the most innovative and globally competitive regions in the world.

Previously, Gregoire served for two terms as governor of the State of Washington with a $32B biennial budget and over 60,000 employees. In her first term as governor, she created the Department of Early Learning and led on reforms to the K-12 system and investment in higher education. Gregoire led the state in a historical investment in infrastructure including the building of the largest floating bridge in the world and the largest transportation tunnel to open up Seattle's waterfront.

She addressed the water wars in the state and established the Puget Sound initiative to restore one of the nation's major estuaries. She led an historic number of trade missions, reformed the foster care system to protect children and was among the first to lead in health care reform.

During her second term, Gregoire led the state in major reforms, management and budgeting to position the state as one of the most financially secure to come out of the Great Recession.

Prior to becoming governor, Gregoire served for three terms as attorney general for the state. Prior to becoming attorney general, Gregoire served four years as the director of the State Department of Ecology.

In addition to being CEO of Challenge Seattle, Gregoire is a member and former chair of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a member of the National Bipartisan Governor’s Council. She served as chair of the National Export-Import Bank Advisory Board 2013–2016.

Gregoire holds a JD from Gonzaga University and a BA and teaching certificate from the University of Washington. She is a graduate of the Harvard Executive Management Program. Gregoire has been married to her husband, Mike, for more than 40 years. They have two children, Courtney and Michelle, and three grandchildren.

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp

United States Senator for North Dakota (2013-2019)

U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp served as the first female senator elected from North Dakota from 2013 to 2019.

During her six years in the U.S. Senate, Heitkamp quickly became a proven leader who worked across the aisle to fight for North Dakotans. She personally showed that if senators work together, it can lead to real solutions. Throughout her time in the Senate, Heidi prioritized improving the lives of Indigenous people and working families, stopping human trafficking; guaranteeing affordable health care; addressing childhood trauma; eliminating unnecessary regulation; and securing an energy policy that keeps cost low but achieves climate goals. Providing equal economic opportunity to Rural America continues to be her lifelong pursuit.

Heitkamp previously served as North Dakota's Attorney General, and elected state Tax Commissioner. She serves on numerous boards including The McCain Institute, The Howard Buffett Foundation, Renew Democracy Initiative and The German Marshall Fund. She is the founder and Chair of the One Country Project, an organization focused on addressing the needs and concerns of rural America. Heitkamp is also a visiting Pritzker Fellow at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics and serves as a contributor to both CNBC and ABC News.

The Honorable David Jacobson

United States Ambassador to Canada (2009-2013)

Ambassador David Jacobson has been the Vice Chair of BMO Financial Group since 2013. In his current role, Jacobson is responsible for driving business across all lines, including Capital Markets, personal and Commercial Banking, and Wealth Management. Among other responsibilities, Jacobson is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Montreal (China) Co. Ltd. and serves as Chair of BMO's Political Action Committee.

Prior to entering his current role, Jacobson served as the 22nd U.S. Ambassador to Canada from 2009 to 2013. As Ambassador, Jacobson worked to expand the bilateral trading relationship between the United States and Canada, raising it to the highest level between any two countries in history. Ambassador Jacobson led the efforts of the Beyond the Border Action Plan and the Regulatory Cooperation Council to improve the security and efficiency of the border between the two countries. Before is role as Ambassador, Jacobson served in the Obama White House as Special Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel. Previously, Jacobson served as a corporate lawyer in Chicago.

President Obama appointed him to the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Jacobson sits on a number of boards, including the Chicago Council of Global Affairs, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Jacobson holds a JD degree from Georgetown University, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree from John Hopkins University.

The Honourable Michael Kergin

Canadian Ambassador to the United States (2000-2005)

Michael Kergin is a Senior Advisor to Bennett Jones LLP. He provides strategic advice to clients on international affairs, particularly Canada-US relations. He has over forty years of experience in the Federal Government of Canada. Michael is a former Canadian Ambassador to the United States (2000-2005) and to the Republic of Cuba (1986-1989).

He was the foreign and defence policy advisor to Prime Minister Chretien, the equivalent of the National Security Advisor in the United States. His overseas assignments included three postings to the Canadian Embassy in Washington, to the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, and to Canadian Embassies in Cameroon and Chile.

After leaving government service, Michael founded the consulting firm Intermestic Consulting Inc. He was appointed as a Special Advisor to the Premier of Ontario for Border Management, with responsibility for developing a policy on the Windsor-Detroit bridge. Subsequently, he acted as the negotiator for Ontario in the Canada-US softwood lumber dispute. He also served as the Canadian Commissioner on the Honduran Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Michael participates in public policy panels on international affairs and on the future of North America relations. He is a regular commentator in the media.

The Honorable Ronald Kirk

United States Trade Representative (2009-2013)

Ambassador Ronald Kirk currently serves as senior of counsel with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Dallas, and Washington D.C. offices. He is co-chair of both the International Trade and Sports Law practices.

Prior to his current role, Kirk was the first African American to serve as U.S. trade representative (USTR) and was a member of President Obama's cabinet; serving as the president's principal trade adviser, negotiator, and spokesperson on trade issues. Ambassador Kirk was nominated to be U.S. Trade Representative by President Barack Obama and was confirmed by the United States Senate in 2009.

As the first African-American Mayor of Dallas from 1995-2001, he earned a reputation for bringing together diverse coalitions. During his tenure as mayor, Kirk expanded Dallas's reach to the world through a range of trade programs, including numerous trade missions. He also passed seven budgets that focused on the critical needs of the city while maintaining and lowering taxes.

Previously, Governor Ann Richards appointed Kirk as Texas secretary of state, where he served as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, and he was named chair of Texas' General Service Commission. Ambassador Kirk also served as a City of Dallas assistant city attorney. Prior to joining USTR, Ambassador Kirk was a partner at Vinson & Elkins LLP, where his principal area of practice was public finance and public policy.

In 2014, Ambassador Kirk was named one of the "28 Men of Change" by BET Networks and ICON MANN in a special initiative for Black History Month featuring "inspirational figures" from multiple countries and a wide array of industries. Ambassador Kirk was featured in Law360 as part of its Minority Powerbrokers Q&A series in 2014. He has been named one of "The 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America" by the National Law Journal and one of the nation's top government relations lawyers by the Best Lawyers in America. He is a recipient of the University of Texas Distinguished Alumni Award, the Woodrow Wilson Center's Outstanding Public Service Award, the Young Texas Exes Award, and the Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award. Ambassador Kirk also received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Austin College and the Mickey Leland Leadership Award from Texas Southern University.

Ambassador Kirk was born and raised in Austin, Texas, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and sociology from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1979.

Chief Wilton Littlechild

Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (2016-2017)

In 1976, Chief Wilton Littlechild had the distinction of being the first Treaty First Nation person to acquire his law degree from the University of Alberta. He received his Bachelor of Physical Education Degree in 1967 and his Master's Degree in Physical Education in 1975. In June of 2007, the University of Alberta bestowed the Doctor of Laws Degree on Chief Littlechild for his outstanding achievements.

An avid sportsman and athlete, Chief Littlechild has won more than fifty provincial, regional, national and international championships. He has served as a coach and organizer of sports event – being a founder of the North American Indigenous games; and has been inducted into seven Sports Halls of Fame.

Chief Littlechild is a respected lawyer and operates the law firm of J. Wilton Littlechild, Barrister and Solicitor, which is situated in the Ermineskin Reserve. He is a strong advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and promoter of implementation of the treaties between the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the Crown, now represented by the federal government. Chief Littlechild also served as the Chairperson for the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform, mandated to review the justice system in the province of Saskatchewan.

Chief Littlechild served as a Member of Parliament from 1988 to 1993 for the riding of Wetaskiwin-Rimby. He served on several senior committees in the House of Commons and was a parliamentary delegate to the United Nations. Chief Littlechild organized a coalition of Indigenous Nations that sought and gained consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He was re-appointed by the E.C.O.S.O.C. President to represent North America and has completed his second and final term as the North American representative to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Chief Littlechild was honoured by being appointed the Honourary Chief for the Maskwacis Crees and also honoured by the Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations as the International Chief for Treaty No. 6 Confederacy.

Elected by the Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7, 8 (Alberta) as the Regional Chief for the three Treaty territories in October of 2006 to serve a three-year term. He is married to Helen Peacock, and is the father of three children: Teddi, Neil and Megan.

The Honourable John Manley

Deputy Prime Minister (2002-2003)

The Honourable John Manley served as Deputy Prime Minister from 2002 to 2003. In a career in politics spanning 16 years, Manley helped lead Canada through dramatic global changes and a new world order.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Manley was asked to chair the Cabinet Committee on Public Security and Anti-Terrorism to co-ordinate Canada's response. As Minister of Foreign Affairs, Manley worked closely Tom Ridge, the first U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, to create the Canada-United States Smart Border Accord; a plan to ensure the secure flow of people and goods between the two countries. For his influential role in the wake of 9/11, he was named "Newsmaker of the Year" by TIME Canada.

While in government, Manley served as Minister of Industry, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance until his retirement in 2004. Manley served as chair of the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning for Ontario and has frequently worked on developing public policy for different governments. His experience with international issues was recognized again in 2007, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed him to head an independent panel on Canada's future role in Afghanistan.

Manley was awarded the 2003 A.D. Dunton Alumni Award of Distinction from Carleton for his remarkable career and contributions. Manley also holds honorary degrees from Carleton University, the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa and Western University. Named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2009, Manley continues to serve by bringing his principled leadership to governments and private industries.

Manley holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Carleton University and a law degree from the University of Ottawa.

The Honourable Sergio Marchi

Canadian Ambassador to the WTO and UN Agencies (1999-2004)

The Honourable Sergio Marchi has been an active participant in global affairs, with a professional career that has spanned both the private and public sectors. He currently serves as Special Advisor to Pace Global Advantage, an international Canadian corporation which provides HNW investors with migration, tax, and business- facilitation solutions. Marchi also teaches at the US Webster University in Geneva, in the International Relations Department.

Prior to his current role, Marchi served as a Senior Fellow with an International Trade Think Tank; President of the Canada-China Business Council; and Chairman of the Canadian Services Coalition.

Marchi also enjoyed a distinguished political and diplomatic career. He was first elected as a Toronto City Councillor. He was subsequently elected to the Canadian Parliament as a Federal Member of Parliament for 15 years. During his 15-year tenure, Marchi served as a cabinet minister in three different portfolios: Citizenship and Immigration, Environment, and International Trade.

Marchi voluntarily left politics in 1999 and was appointed as Canadian Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Agencies, in Geneva, where he served for five years. He quickly established his leadership credentials by assuming several important posts, including being elected Chairman of the WTO General Council by the 148 Member countries. Marchi was nominated by the Canadian government and the UN Secretary General to serve as a Commissioner on the UN Global Commission on International Migration.

Marchi is also a public speaker and serves as a Member of the Advisory Council of the Schulich School of Business at York University, in Toronto, and the Shenzhen WTO Advisory Board, in Shenzhen, China.

The Honourable Barbara McDougall

Secretary of State for External Affairs (1991-1993)

The Honourable Barbara McDougall currently serves an Advisor at Aird & Berlis LLP. McDougall served as the Member of Parliament for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada from 1984 to 1993, representing the Ontario riding of St. Paul's. During nine-year tenure, McDougall held several cabinet posts, including serving as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and the Minister of State for Finance.

Additionally, she has been an Honorary Director of the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Chairperson of the boards of directors of AT&T Canada, a Director of Unique Solutions Design Ltd., as well as a Director of Foresters Securities Inc.

McDougall holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto. McDougall was appointed as an officer of the Order of Canada in 2000.

The Honourable Frank McKenna

Canadian Ambassador to the United States (2005-2006)

The Honourable Frank McKenna currently serves as Deputy Chair of TD Bank Group. He has held this role since 2006.

McKenna served as the 27th Premier of New Brunswick for three consecutive Liberal majority governments, from 1987 to 1997. After leaving office, McKenna was appointed by Prime Minister Paul Martin to serve as Canada's Ambassador to the U.S. McKenna served as ambassador from 2005 until 2006.

In addition to his leadership positions in the public sector, McKenna holds various key roles in the private sector, including as the current Chairman of Brookfield Asset Management and Board Member of Canadian Natural Resources. He was previously the Chairman of the Board of CanWest Global. Additionally, he also served on the Boards of Shoppers Drug Mart, General Motors, and Noranda.

McKenna holds degrees from St. Francis Xavier University, Queen's University, and the University of New Brunswick Law School. McKenna was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2008.

The Honourable James Moore

Minister of Industry (2013-2015)

The Honourable James Moore currently serves as a Senior Business Advisor at the multinational law firm Dentons and a Public Policy Advisor at the global firm Edelman. Moore also serves as national vice-chair of the Canadian Cancer Society, a member of the NAFTA Council for the Government of Canada, a corporate director and was the 6th Chancellor of the University of Northern British Columbia.

Previously, Moore served as Canada's Minister of Industry, Minister of Canadian Heritage & Official Languages and Secretary of State for the Asia Pacific Gateway and Minister for the 2010 Olympics over a 5-term, 15-year career as a Member of Parliament. He was the senior regional minister for the province of British Columbia and remains the youngest cabinet minister and Member of Parliament in British Columbia’s history.

Moore holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Northern British Columbia. Moore also holds a Master of Arts degree in political studies from the University of Saskatchewan.

The Honorable William L. Owens

Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (2009-2015)

The Honorable William L. Owens is a former member of Congress, serving as a U.S. House Representative for New York's 21st Congressional District (previously 23rd) from 2009 to 2015. In his role as Congressman, Owens developed a deep understanding of issues directly impacting his constituents, including matters related to U.S.-Canada trade, healthcare, and agriculture.

While in Congress, Owens served on the Agriculture Committee, Armed Services Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and Small Business Committee and House Appropriations Committee. He introduced several pieces of legislation to aide in pre-clearance and fund customs and border patrol activities. In his final two-year term, Owens served on the exclusive House Appropriations Committee, including the Subcommittee on Defense and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Owens authorized five pieces of legislation which were signed into law during his tenure in Congress, three of which were provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill that had a direct, positive impact on the lives of the farmers in his district.

Prior to his involvement in federal politics, Owens served as Managing Partner at Stafford Owens in Plattsburgh, New York. Owens was responsible for directing day-to-day management, developing, and implementing practice growth strategies, identifying, fostering, and securing crucial partnerships and relationships, with a specialization in economic development and cross-border commerce.

Previously, Owen served as a Captain on an active duty with the United States Airforce from March 1975 to March 1979.

Owens currently serves as a board member for the Arrow Financial Corp and Glens Falls National Bank, a senior advisory board member for the Canadian/American Board of Trade Alliance (CANAMBTA), and an advisory board member for the Quebec delegate General to New York State.

Owens holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Manhattan College, as well as a Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law in New York, NY.

The Honourable Lisa Raitt

Minister of Transport (2013-2015)

The Honourable Lisa Raitt currently serves as vice-chair of global investment banking at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Prior to her current role, Raitt served in the House of Commons for 11 years as Member of Parliament for the ridings of Halton and Milton. From 2008 to 2010, Raitt served at the Minister of Natural Resources. Curing the 2009 economic crisis, Raitt led consultations with stakeholders in the energy sector, the forestry sector and the mining sector developing policy to support employment and investment during the downturn. As Minister of Labour from 2010- 2013, Raitt championed mental health in the workplace supporting the development of the National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace – the first of its kind in the world.

Raitt was named the 2011 Champion of Mental Health, Public Sector by the Canadian Alliance of Mental Illness and Mental Health. In July 2013, Raitt was named Minister of Transport where she initiated the comprehensive review of the Canada Transportation Act. She was responsible for the operations of Canada's Crown Corporations including VIA Rail, Canada Post, and Marine Atlantic. In 2015, Raitt was appointed Finance Critic for the Official Opposition and in 2017 was appointed Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Prior to her role in federal politics, Raitt served as the Toronto Port Authority's Corporate Secretary and General Counsel and harbourmaster. She was the first female harbourmaster of a Canadian port. In 2002, Raitt was appointed as president and chief executive officer of the Toronto Port Authority.

Raitt holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. She also holds a master's degree in chemistry, specializing in environmental biochemical toxicology. Raitt also possesses an LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto.

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell

Governor of Pennsylvania (2003-2011), Mayor of Philadelphia (1992-2000)

After 34 years of public service, including 24 years as an elected official, Governor Rendell continues to pursue many of the same issues he was passionate about while serving. His commitment to making America a cleaner, more efficient place and to fostering investment in our nation's crumbling infrastructure is as strong as it has ever been. He has also remained heavily involved in the campaign for government efficiency and strategic cost cutting through his work with entities such as Government Sourcing Solutions and Public Financial Management.

Perhaps no other issue has been and continues to be as important to Governor Rendell as America's dire need to rebuild and reinvest in its infrastructure. As Governor, Rendell worked with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to create an organization called "Building America's Future." The organization focuses on the need for a more significant investment in American infrastructure projects to ensure that America maintains its place as a global economic power. Governor Rendell currently serves as Co-Chair of the organization, along with Mike Bloomberg and former U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, and travels throughout the country speaking about this issue.

In 2012, Governor Rendell penned his first book, A Nation of Wusses: How America's Leaders Lost the Guts to Make Us Great. In A Nation of Wusses, Rendell chronicles his storied political career with his trademark candor while making a strong statement about the state of American leadership.

Rendell served two terms as Governor of Pennsylvania (2003-2011) and oversaw a budget of $28.3 billion as the chief executive of the nation's 6th-most-populous state. As Governor, Rendell was committed to making government more responsible and responsive to the public's needs, and he successfully cut wasteful spending and improved efficiency leading to savings of over $1 billion. His legislative agenda focused on common sense political reform and putting progress ahead of partisanship.

Through his unprecedented strategic investments, he energized Pennsylvania's economy, revitalized communities, improved education, protected the environment, expanded access to health care to all children, and made affordable prescription drugs available to older Pennsylvanians.

During his two terms as Mayor of Philadelphia (1992-2000), Rendell eliminated a crippling deficit, balanced the City's budget, and generated five consecutive budget surpluses. Philadelphia's renaissance, which The New York Times called "the most stunning turnaround in recent urban history," is largely attributed to his determination, inspiration, and energy.

Before serving as Mayor, Rendell was elected District Attorney of Philadelphia for two terms from 1978 through 1985. Rendell also served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee during the 2000 Presidential election. He currently sits on several boards, supports multiple non-profit organizations, and teaches government and politics courses at the University of Pennsylvania.

An Army veteran, he holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Villanova Law School.

The Honorable Paul H. Robinson

United States Ambassador to Canada (1981-1985)

The Honorable Paul H. Robinson currently serves as chairman of Robinson Inc.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated Robinson to be United States Ambassador to Canada. Robinson presented his credentials on July 15, 1981, and served in Ottawa until September 9, 1985. Robinson took part in several discussions surrounding the easing of trade restrictions between the United States and Canada. With the election of Progressive Conservative Brian Mulroney in the 1984 Canadian federal election, talk of trade restrictions expanded into discussions of comprehensive free trade.

Prior to his role as ambassador, Robinson served as Reagan's Finance Chairman during the Primary campaign in Illinois from 1979 to 1980. From 1953 to 1955, Robinson served the United States Navy as Lieutenant.

Robinson holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois.

The Honourable Brad Wall

Premier of Saskatchewan (2007-2018)

The Honourable Brad Wall is a Special Advisor in the Osler Calgary office. Prior to joining Osler, he was in politics for 18 years where he demonstrated a consistent ability to bring political and business leaders together as he implemented creative ways to bolster the province's economic well-being.

Wall was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan as Member of the Legislative Assembly for Swift Current in 1999, and re-elected in 2003, 2007 2011, and 2016. In 2007, Brad was elected as Premier of Saskatchewan and helped lead the province to a period of strong population and economic growth, export expansion, record infrastructure investment and tax reductions while helping to earn the provinces first ever AAA credit rating.

Wall attended the University of Saskatchewan and completed his post-secondary education with an honour's degree in Public Administration and an advanced certificate in Political Studies.

The Honorable David Wilkins

United States Ambassador to Canada (2005-2009)

The Honorable David Wilkins is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and chairs the Public Policy and International Law practice group, which focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the US-Canadian border and offers experience on a wide range of strategic bilateral issues.

Prior to his current role, Wilkins was nominated by President George W. Bush to become the United States Ambassador to Canada. He began his service as the 21st United States Ambassador to Canada on June 29, 2005, and served until January 20, 2009. As ambassador, Wilkinson aided in resolving issues between Canada and the United States, including the decades-old softwood lumber trade dispute. Wilkins worked tirelessly on issues such as energy, national security, the environment, trade, and travel.

Wilkins began his legislative career in 1980, serving six years as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and two years as speaker pro tempore before being elected speaker. In his 25 years in the Legislature, Wilkins was involved in several major reform initiatives. Wilkins wrote or co-sponsored the legislation on welfare reform, property tax relief, education accountability, LIFE scholarships, judicial reform, government restructuring, and truth-in-sentencing. Previously, Wilkins practiced law for 34 years in Greenville, South Carolina, with experience in civil litigation and appellate law.

Throughout his distinguished career, Wilkins has received numerous awards including the 2004 Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award from the National Conference of State Legislatures, 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the South Carolina Municipal Association, 2001 Distinguished Service Award from the South Carolina Association of Counties and the 2000 Palmetto Leadership Award from the South Carolina Policy Council. He has been named Outstanding Legislator of the Year by a wide range of organizations from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce to the South Carolina Realtors' Association, as well as being named the National Republican Legislator of the Year.

Wilkins has received honorary degrees from numerous state institutions including Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, The Citadel, Francis Marion University, and the Medical University of South Carolina. Wilkins is past president of the National Speakers' Association and past chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Wilkins graduated from Greenville High School and received his undergraduate degree from Clemson University. He also holds a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.