



Prime Ministers' *Portraits*



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Foreword

As Speaker OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, I am honoured to witness regularly the beauty of many different heritage items of great historical and symbolic value which are housed within the walls of the Parliament

buildings, not the least of which are the 20 portraits of Canada's Prime Ministers between 1867 and 2010. Thus, it is with great pleasure that I share, through this brochure, these portraits which depict individuals who represent the apex of political achievement in Canada.

These Prime Ministers have helped to shape our country into the nation it is today, providing leadership to all Canadians in times of crisis and peace. Impressive as these portraits are as works of art, they are equally memorable in their individual ability to reveal the unique essence of each Prime Minister and in their collective ability to help unveil the proud history of this country. By capturing images of these important leaders, an enduring tribute to them has been created, one which is meant to be enjoyed by all.

The Prime Ministers' portraits are more than historical or artistic records; they commemorate the idea of lives dedicated to the service of one's country and its citizens, and a celebration of our democratic process. Exhibited within the House of Commons, and viewed by over 400,000 visitors each year, these wonderful paintings, each an expression of the subject and the artist, stand to remind us of the longstanding importance and value of public service.

Andrew Scheer, M.P.
35th Speaker of the House of Commons
May 2013

Introduction to

Prime Ministers' *Portraits*

This brochure features THE OFFICIAL PORTRAITS OF THE TWENTY-ONE MEN AND ONE WOMAN WHO SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA BETWEEN 1867 AND 2010. Twenty of these portraits are paintings that hang in the Prime Ministers Portrait Gallery on Parliament Hill. The remaining two portraits are official photographs, which will be replaced by paintings as they become available.

The tradition of prime ministerial portraits dates to 1890, when Sir John A. Macdonald attended the unveiling of his own official portrait in the original Parliament Building. His portrait has hung in Parliament since that time. Portraits of other early Prime Ministers were commissioned by friends and colleagues and donated to the House of Commons. Portraits have also been commissioned by House of Commons officials. A few were proposed by the artists themselves.

The commissioning is funded and managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada. The choice of artist is left to the individual Prime Minister.

There is no timeframe within which a portrait must be painted. Some portraits were unveiled while the Prime Ministers were still in office. Most of the paintings were produced after the prime ministerial terms had ended, while others were commissioned posthumously. Once a portrait is completed, it is unveiled in an official ceremony and immediately hung with the other portraits in the Prime Ministers Portrait Gallery.

The Right Honourable

Sir John Alexander

Macdonald

Unveiled in 1890 in the original Parliament Building on the occasion of Sir John Alexander Macdonald's 75th birthday, this official portrait depicts Canada's first Prime Minister as a confident, relaxed and dignified elder statesman. He is shown dressed in the uniform of the Imperial Privy Council with the regalia of the Order of the Bath. A consummate politician, he is best remembered for his instrumental role in the creation of Confederation.

The Artist

Henry Sandham, a native of Montréal, acquired his early artistic training at the Notman Photographic Studio, where he rose to head the art department. He was a talented and versatile artist recognized for his portraits, landscapes and historical paintings, as well as for his illustrations of books and periodicals.



Prime Minister: 1867–1873, 1878–1891

Artist: Henry Sandham (1842–1910)

Date: 1889

Unveiled: February 27, 1890

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 118.7 x 152.4 cm

Catalogue no.: O-795

The Honourable

Alexander
Mackenzie

This official portrait of Alexander Mackenzie was painted from photographs in 1897, five years after his death. A man of strict integrity who declined several offers of knighthood, Mackenzie is shown wearing a formal yet plain suit. Although the photographs were taken when he was in poor health and exhausted from his years in politics, Mackenzie's expression is one of "courage that never knew retreat." The portrait was rescued from the fire that destroyed the original Parliament Building in 1916.

The Artist

Born in Norval, Ontario, John Wycliffe Lowes Forster studied portraiture first in Toronto and then in Paris at the Atelier Julian. He opened a studio upon his return to Toronto and soon became one of Canada's leading portrait painters.



Prime Minister: 1873–1878

Artist: John Wycliffe Lowes Forster (1850–1938)

Date: 1897

Purchased: June 1900

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 121.5 x 154 cm

Catalogue no.: O-888

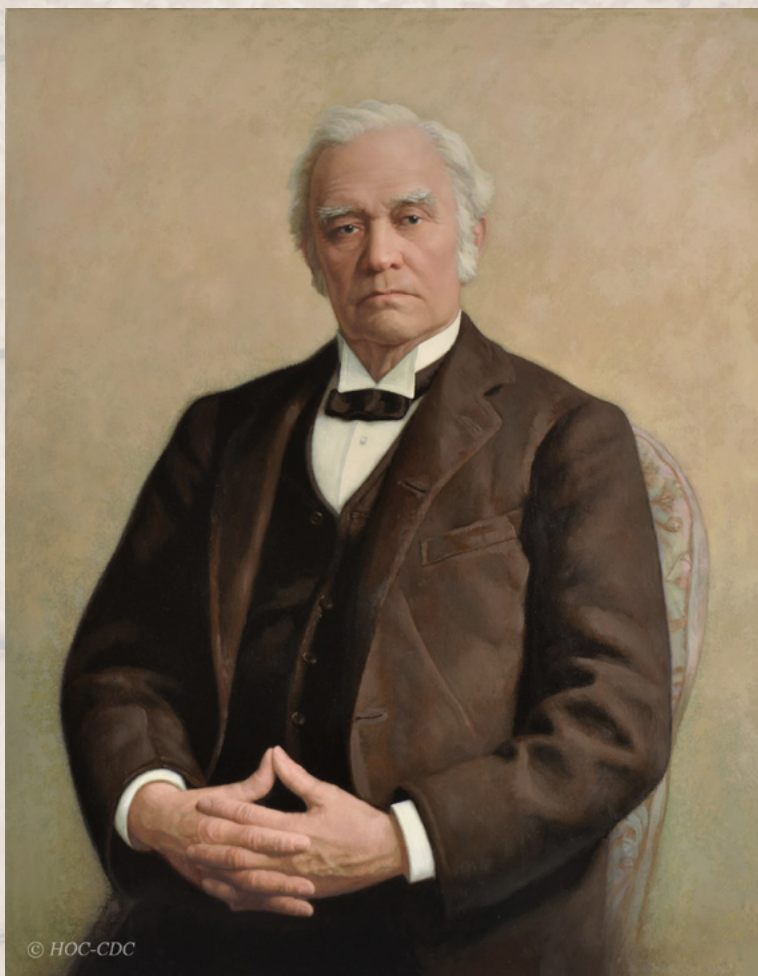
The Honourable

Sir John Joseph
Caldwell Abbott

This portrait of Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott was unveiled 110 years after he resigned as Prime Minister due to ill health. The composition of the painting is based on a Topley Studio photograph taken in February 1892, a year before his death. The artist incorporated elements from other photographs to create a portrait of a rested and determined Prime Minister.

The Artist

*B*orn in Shanghai, Muli Tang studied fine arts in Beijing before winning a scholarship for advanced artistic training in England. He has travelled extensively to study masterpieces in more than 30 countries. Muli Tang, who lives in Montréal, is internationally acclaimed for his paintings.



Prime Minister: 1891–1892

Artist: Muli Tang (1947–)

Date: 2002

Unveiled: June 3, 2002

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 117 x 91.4 cm

Catalogue no.: O-2152

The Right Honourable

Sir John Sparrow David

Thompson

In this three-quarter-length portrait, Sir John Sparrow David Thompson looks distinguished in the ornate uniform of the Imperial Privy Council. He wore this uniform for his investiture by Queen Victoria into the Imperial Privy Council in 1894. Sadly, Thompson died at Windsor Castle following the ceremony.

The Artist

John Wycliffe Lowes Forster completed the portrait of Thompson in 1897. The artist approached the Speaker, who supported the purchase by the House of Commons. The portrait was rescued from the fire that destroyed the original Parliament Building in 1916.

Born in Norval, Ontario, Forster studied portraiture first in Toronto and then in Paris at the Atelier Julian. He opened a studio upon his return to Toronto and soon became one of Canada's leading portrait painters.



Prime Minister: 1892–1894

Artist: John Wycliffe Lowes Forster (1850–1938)

Date: 1897

Purchased: June 1900

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 143 x 106.8 cm

Catalogue no.: O-792

The Honourable

Sir Mackenzie
Bowell

This official portrait of Sir Mackenzie Bowell was commissioned posthumously in 2001. Painted from a Topley Studio photograph taken in 1889 when Bowell was Minister of Customs, the portrait shows him wearing a richly textured fur coat and dark wool suit. The realism of the subject and the detail of the background represent a contemporary interpretation of the historical photograph.

The Artist

Joanne Tod studied fine arts at the Ontario College of Art and currently teaches painting at the University of Toronto. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at various galleries and institutions.



Prime Minister: 1894–1896

Artist: Joanne Tod (1953–)

Date: 2002

Unveiled: June 3, 2002

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 131.8 x 91.4 cm

Catalogue no.: O-2172

The Right Honourable
Sir Charles
Tupper

This portrait was presented to Sir Charles Tupper while he was campaigning for re-election in Winnipeg in May 1896. Tupper did not sit for the painting, rather the artist used a Topley Studio photograph taken of him earlier that year.

The Artist

*B*orn in St. Catharines, Ontario, Victor Albert Long studied painting in Europe as a young man. He settled in Winnipeg and later moved to Vancouver. He was recognized as the foremost portraitist in Western Canada during his career. For more than 40 years, he painted the portraits of numerous prominent public figures.



Prime Minister: 1896

Artist: Victor Albert Long (1866–1938)

Date: 1896

Unveiled: May 9, 1896

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 168 x 100.2 cm

Catalogue no.: O-791

The Right Honourable
Sir Wilfrid
Laurier

This portrait of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is one of four completed by the artist. The painting was not commissioned and it hung in the House of Commons for two years before it was purchased by the House. The acquisition was largely prompted by William Lyon Mackenzie King, who was a friend of the artist. The background window scene in the painting features the original Parliament Building, where Laurier served for nearly 45 years.

The Artist

John Wentworth Russell was a native of Hamilton, Ontario. He received his early art education at the Hamilton Art School and the Art Students' League in New York before pursuing studies in Paris, where he lived for more than 25 years. Upon his return to Canada, he opened his own art school in Toronto.



Prime Minister: 1896–1911

Artist: John Wentworth Russell (1879–1959)

Date: 1919

Purchased: June 1924

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 236.8 x 155 cm

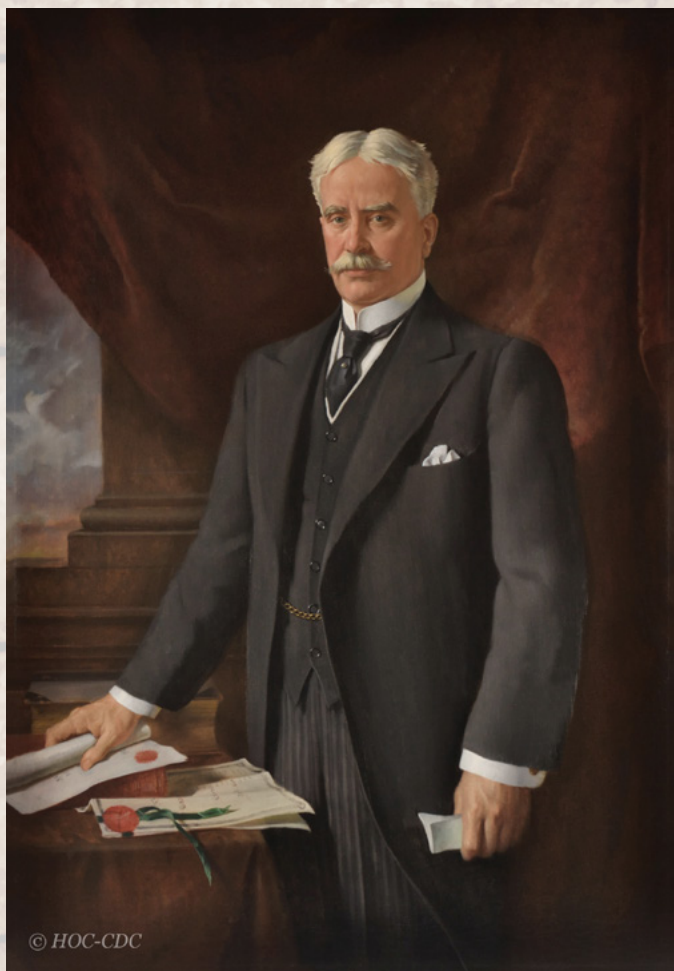
Catalogue no.: O-782

The Right Honourable
Sir Robert Laird
Borden

The portrait of Sir Robert Laird Borden was painted posthumously, with the artist relying on the Prime Minister's memoirs and photographs, and on interviews with family members. The artist wrote that he "arranged the background of the portrait to enhance Sir Borden's broad shoulders and beautiful even white hair." The portraits of Canada's two wartime Prime Ministers, Sir Robert Laird Borden and William Lyon Mackenzie King, were unveiled together in June 1947.

The Artist

*K*enneth Keith Forbes received his early art instruction in Toronto from his father, the distinguished Canadian portraitist John Colin Forbes. After winning a scholarship, he continued his education in Arbroath, Scotland, and at the London New Art School. He was a champion of the traditionalist school of painting.



Prime Minister: 1911–1920

Artist: Kenneth Keith Forbes (1892–1980)

Date: 1947

Unveiled: June 10, 1947

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 140.2 x 92.4 cm

Catalogue no.: O-851

The Right Honourable

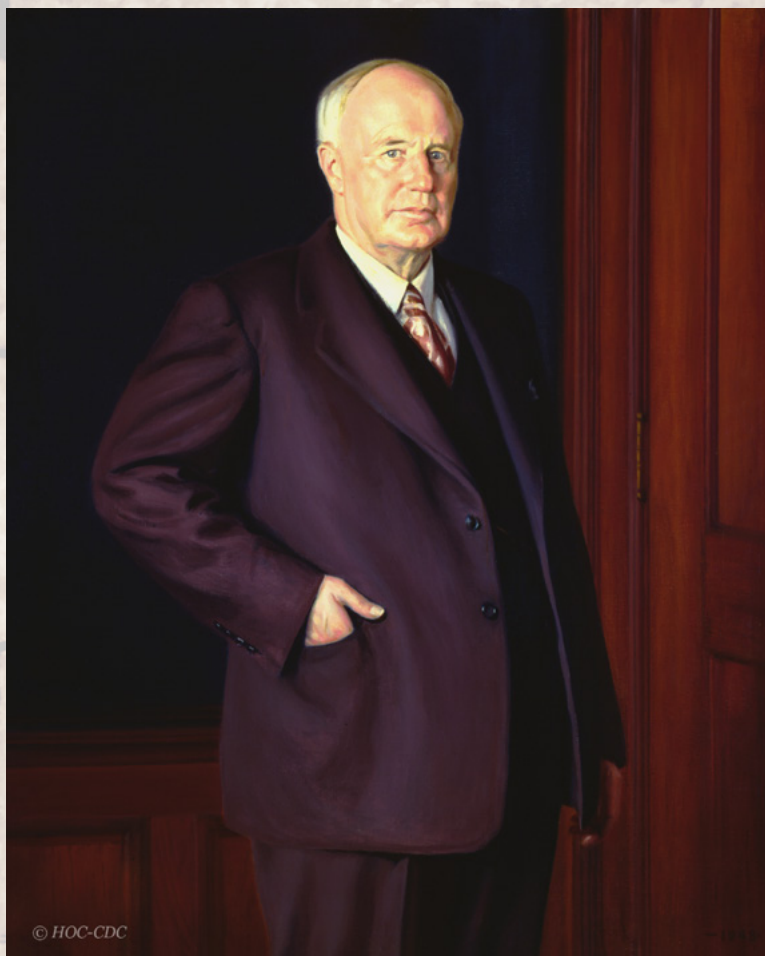
Arthur

Meighen

The Speaker of the House of Commons wrote to Arthur Meighen in May 1948, inviting him to have his portrait painted while it could still be done from sittings. Meighen responded favourably to the request and was most satisfied with the outcome. In a letter to the artist, he wrote, “Nothing could have been more pleasing to me than the remarkable attention you gave the painting and the very excellent likeness which you produced.”

The Artist

A native of Ottawa, Ernest George Fosbery studied painting in Ottawa and Paris. Wounded in France during the First World War, he was transferred to the Canadian war records unit as a war artist. He taught in the United States for more than a decade and served as president of the Royal Canadian Academy in the 1940s. A number of his works can be seen on Parliament Hill.



Prime Minister: 1920–1921, 1926

Artist: Ernest George Fosbery (1874–1960)

Date: 1948

Unveiled: December 1948

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 127 x 101.6 cm

Catalogue no.: O-620

The Right Honourable

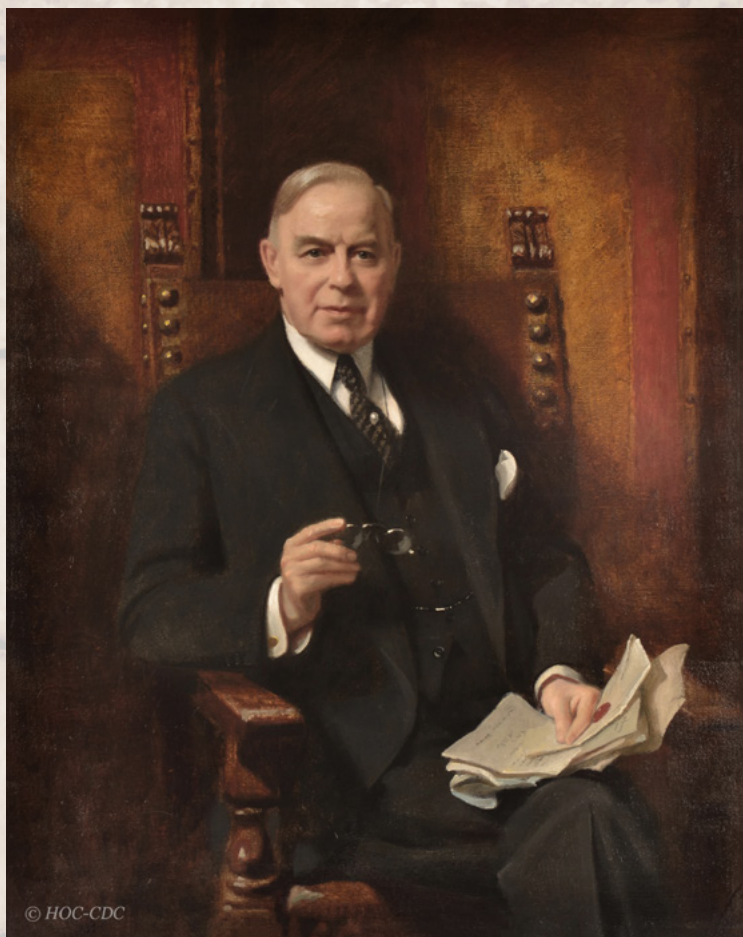
William Lyon Mackenzie

King

William Lyon Mackenzie King had his portrait painted in the fall of 1945 with the intention of presenting it to the nation. He selected the date of the unveiling to coincide with his completing a total of 20 years in the office of Prime Minister. In the painting, Mackenzie King is holding papers that, according to the artist, related to the Gouzenko Affair.

The Artist

*F*rancis (Frank) Owen Salisbury received his artistic training at Heatherley's Drawing Academy and the Royal Academy in London, England. He is considered to be one of the leading English portraitists of the twentieth century, with members of the British royal family and Western political leaders among his many subjects.



Prime Minister: 1921–1926, 1926–1930, 1935–1948

Artist: Francis (Frank) Owen Salisbury (1874–1962)

Date: 1945

Unveiled: June 10, 1947

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 127.6 x 102.4 cm

Catalogue no.: O-940

The Right Honourable

Richard Bedford

Bennett

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker initiated the commissioning of the official portrait of Richard Bedford Bennett following inquiries from several political friends. The Minister of Public Works oversaw the process and selected the portraitist Kenneth Keith Forbes. The artist relied on a photograph and his personal recollections of the Prime Minister, whom he had already painted from a sitting in 1938.

The Artist

*K*enneth Keith Forbes received his early art instruction in Toronto from his father, the distinguished Canadian portraitist John Colin Forbes. After winning a scholarship, he continued his education in Arbroath, Scotland, and at the London New Art School. He was a staunch critic of modern art and champion of the traditionalist school of painting. His numerous commissions included portraits of the Speakers of both the Senate and the House of Commons.



Prime Minister: 1930–1935

Artist: Kenneth Keith Forbes (1892–1980)

Date: 1962

Unveiled: November 13, 1963

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 127 x 102.2 cm

Catalogue no.: O-631

The Right Honourable

Louis Stephen

St-Laurent

This portrait of Louis Stephen St-Laurent was presented to the Speaker of the House of Commons by Lester Pearson on behalf of former parliamentary colleagues who contributed to having it painted. Since the Prime Minister's health was poor at the time of the sittings, the artist tried to capture his previous vitality. She chose a standing pose and had St-Laurent wear a black overcoat and white scarf "for dramatic effect," with the interior of the Parliament Building as the background.

The Artist

Audrey Watts McNaughton studied in Toronto and London, England. She specializes in portraiture and is also known for her paintings of domestic animals.



Prime Minister: 1948–1957

Artist: Audrey Watts McNaughton (1917–2010)

Date: 1958

Unveiled: March 4, 1959

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 114 x 89.1 cm

Catalogue no.: O-638

The Right Honourable

John George
Diefenbaker

Wearing a crimson honorary academic gown that he received from the University of Punjab, John George Diefenbaker is shown standing with his hand on his hip, as he often did when he spoke in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister's strong personality comes out in the portrait through the sculptured effect of both the figure and background, as well as the bold colours.

The Artist

Cleeve Horne came to Canada from his birthplace in Jamaica as an infant. Equally known as a sculptor and a painter, he studied in England and at the Ontario College of Art. He was a successful and prolific artist who depicted more than 400 prominent individuals in portraits and sculptures throughout his career.



Prime Minister: 1957–1963

Artist: Cleeve Horne (1912–1998)

Date: 1968

Unveiled: October 8, 1968

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 145 x 107.2 cm

Catalogue no.: O-969

The Right Honourable
Lester Bowles
Pearson

The egg tempera portrait of Lester Bowles Pearson captures him sitting in a chair in a characteristic pose, with his hands clasped and legs crossed. The Prime Minister quickly dubbed his portrait “The Sloucher,” saying, “it’s orthodox enough to be acceptable, and yet different enough to be interesting.”

The Artist

*H*ugh Seaforth Mackenzie was born in Toronto and studied at the Ontario College of Art from 1947 to 1950. He pursued his studies at Mount Allison University under Alex Colville. Mackenzie worked as a commercial artist in Toronto for several years before becoming a professor at the Ontario College of Art.



Prime Minister: 1963–1968

Artist: Hugh Seaforth Mackenzie (1928–)

Date: 1968

Unveiled: October 24, 1968

Medium: Tempera on masonite

Dimensions: 96.7 x 76.7 cm

Catalogue no.: O-645

The Right Honourable

Pierre Elliott

Trudeau

Pierre Elliott Trudeau's official portrait

shows a pensive man with a hint of a smile, confidently looking straight at his viewers. His shoulders are draped in his trademark loden cape, and a signature red rose adorns the lapel of his blazer. The artist consented to undertake the commission on the condition that the Prime Minister stayed at her home in British Columbia.

The Artist

*M*yfanwy Spencer Pavelic was a largely self-taught artist with an international reputation. At the age of 18, she attracted the attention of Emily Carr, who arranged an exhibition of Pavelic's work. She received the Order of Canada in 1985.



Prime Minister: 1968–1979, 1980–1984

Artist: Myfanwy Spencer Pavelic (1916–2007)

Date: 1991

Unveiled: May 1, 1992

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Dimensions: 122 x 91.5 cm

Catalogue no.: O-1526.1

The Right Honourable

Charles Joseph
Clark

The official portrait of Charles Joseph Clark is the first to depict a Prime Minister addressing the House of Commons. The artist chose to pose Clark standing against the elegant interior of the Chamber to emphasize his ability to “command the House.” By doing so, Cox created a portrait that instantly captures the attention of the audience and draws the viewer into the portrait.

The Artist

A native and resident of Alberta, Patrick Douglas Cox studied art at the Alberta College of Art in Calgary, and graduated in 1976 with a degree in Visual Communications. After a successful career as a commercial artist, Cox turned to painting. In his art, he often chooses to depict simple yet purposeful moments, as well as the sincerity and integrity of rural life.



Prime Minister: 1979–1980

Artist: Patrick Douglas Cox (1953–)

Date: 2008

Unveiled: May 27, 2008

Medium: Tempera on masonite

Dimensions: 120 x 77 cm

Catalogue no.: O-7670

The Right Honourable

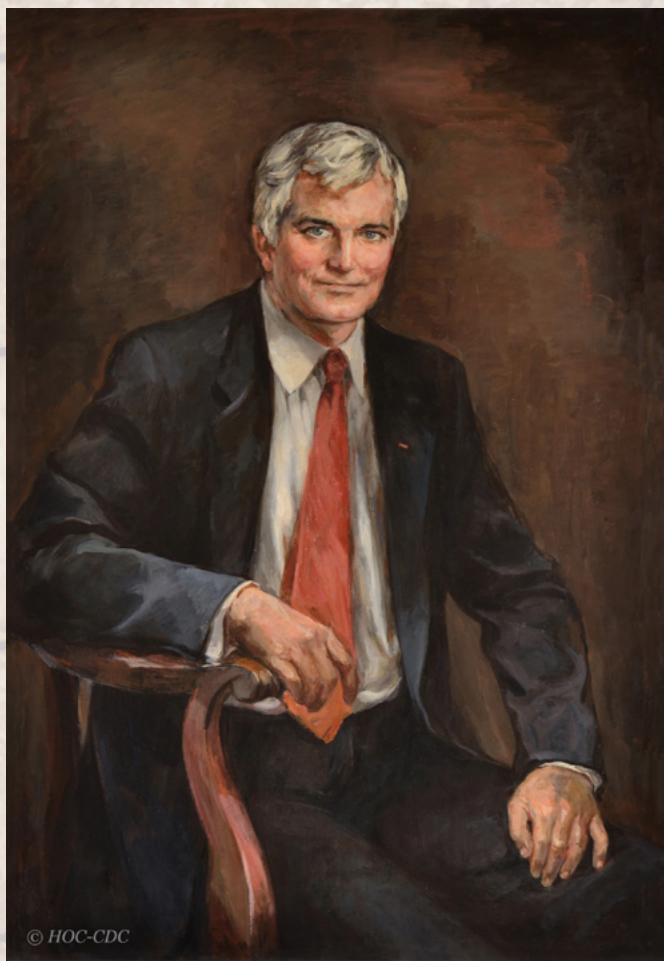
John Napier

Turner

The portrait of John Napier Turner was unveiled 17 years after his term as Prime Minister. The painting captures Turner's confidence and vitality at the height of his political career. The Prime Minister is depicted looking straight at the viewer, calmly yet attentively.

The Artist

*B*orn in England, Brenda Bury has lived in Canada since 1979. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Reading University in England. She has painted the portraits of many distinguished people in Britain and in Canada, including former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and former Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.



Prime Minister: 1984

Artist: Brenda Bury (1932–)

Date: 1999

Unveiled: May 8, 2001

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 146 x 101.6 cm

Catalogue no.: O-1283

The Right Honourable

Martin Brian

Mulroney

The portrait of Martin Brian Mulroney presents the Prime Minister in the dignified stance of a statesman. His dark suit, with the lapel pin of the Companion of the Order of Canada, contrasts with the warm colours of the background. The painting also evokes Mulroney's private life, depicting a family photo on his desk.

The Artist

A native of Russia, Igor V. Babailov immigrated to Canada in 1990. He holds a master's degree in Fine Arts from the Surikov Academy of Fine Arts in Moscow. He considers himself a classical portrait artist and has received numerous international commissions to paint social, business and political figures.



Prime Minister: 1984–1993

Artist: Igor V. Babailov (1965–)

Date: 2002

Unveiled: November 19, 2002

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 121.2 x 91.3 cm

Catalogue no.: O-4696

The Right Honourable

Kim

Campbell

The portrait of Kim Campbell is set against a backdrop of clothing that tells her story. The Musqueam cape represents her roots in British Columbia. The red doctoral robe symbolizes Campbell's life in academia, and the black legal gown draped over the chair refers to the famous photograph taken of Campbell while she served as Minister of Justice.

The Artist

British-born artist David Goatley trained at the Camberwell College of Arts in London. He left behind a successful career in advertising in England and moved to British Columbia in 1992. He has an established international reputation as a portraitist.



Prime Minister: 1993

Artist: David Goatley (1954–)

Date: 2004

Unveiled: November 30, 2004

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 122.2 x 90.7 cm

Catalogue no.: O-7248

The Right Honourable

Joseph Jacques Jean
Chrétien

The portrait of Joseph Jacques Jean Chrétien features a simple yet vibrant Chinese yellow background that draws attention to the outline of the subject. The artist chose the format of the painting to emphasize the height and slenderness of Chrétien, who is shown holding his reading glasses.

The Artist

Christan Martin Nicholson is a native of Saint John, New Brunswick, and a graduate of the Fine Arts program at Mount Allison University. For over four decades, he has captured on canvas the image of numerous Canadians from the worlds of academia, politics, business and the arts. His technique involves drawing on the canvas which is then worked up using layers of thin oil paint followed by layers of thicker paint.



Prime Minister: 1993–2003

Artist: Christan Martin Nicholson (1948–)

Date: 2010

Unveiled: May 25, 2010

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 122 x 91.5 cm

Catalogue no.: O-8044

The Right Honourable

Paul Edgar Philippe

Martin

The official photograph of Prime Minister Paul Edgar Philippe Martin was taken in the Prime Minister's office on Parliament Hill in December 2003, shortly after he took office. The photographer used the Canadian flag to reinforce the formal quality of the photograph, while providing colour and contrast against the otherwise simple background.

The Photographer

A graduate of Sheridan College in Applied Photography, Dave Chan has worked for several national and international newspapers. In 2002, he won a National Newspaper Award for feature photography. The following year, he became Prime Minister Martin's official photographer.



Prime Minister: 2003–2006

Photographer: Dave Chan (1966–)

Date: December 2003

Medium: Digital image

Credit: Dave Chan, Prime Minister's Office

The Right Honourable

Stephen Joseph
Harper

This official photograph of Prime Minister Stephen Joseph Harper was taken in June 2006 in his official residence at 24 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. Harper is shown in his office wearing a lapel pin featuring the Canadian flag, an element often seen in photographs of him.

The Photographer

*J*ason Ransom, the photographer, was raised in London, Ontario. He graduated from the photography program at Fanshawe College in 1994. He is an award-winning photojournalist who has travelled extensively. Ransom was named the Prime Minister's official photographer in February 2006.



Prime Minister: 2006–

Photographer: Jason Ransom (1972–)

Date: June 2006

Medium: Digital image

Credit: Jason Ransom, Prime Minister's Office





