

On the Front Cover

The Honourable Kim Campbell

by Kathleen J. Kelly

The Honourable Kim Campbell, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, is an impressive person. On one hand, she is a no-nonsense achiever while on the other she has a sense of humour to equal, if not exceed, that of her predecessor and now Governor-General of Canada His Excellency the Right Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn.

Ms. Campbell was born and educated in British Columbia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and an LL.B., both from the University of British Columbia. From 1970 to 1974 she received Canada Council doctoral fellowships to pursue doctoral studies in Soviet government at the London School of Economics. Ms. Campbell was called to the B.C. Bar in 1984 and continued to practice at Ladner Downs following her articles there.

Ms. Campbell began her political career in 1980 when she was elected as a Trustee of the Vancouver School Board. She worked on the Vancouver School Board for four years and in 1983 sat as its chairman. In September of 1985 she made an exciting move to become the executive director of the office of the Premier, then Bill Bennett, until he stepped down from leader of the Social Credit Party and Premier of the Province of British Columbia.

With a lot of persuasion, consideration and support, she decided to run as a candidate for leadership of the Social Credit Party in June of 1986. The campaign was difficult and challenging and while she was not successful in surviving the first ballot, she made a tremendous impact on not only the people at the convention and the people in British Columbia, but nationwide. Her skills as an orator were amply demonstrated in the speech which she delivered at the leadership convention.

In October of 1986 Ms. Campbell ran and was elected as an MLA for the riding of Vancouver-Point Grey. When Prime Minister Mulroney called a federal election in 1988, she ran for and was elected MP for Vancouver-Centre. Shortly after settling into Ottawa, she was appointed Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development) in February of 1989. She held that portfolio until her appointment as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada.

Ms. Campbell is a bright, articulate and positive addition not only to the federal cabinet, but to politics in general. While she is forthright and speaks with candor, she has the ability to listen effectively and with genuine interest.

At times, she has been portrayed as arrogant and disinterested in the "ordinary man", however those portrayals have often been a result of comments and statements taken out of context and not genuinely indicative of her interest in or concern for the "ordinary man". Ms. Campbell knows that her constituents are from a wide base, and even more so now is that the case.

Ms. Campbell is like so many of us. She has worked as a labourer, in a fish-packing plant in Prince Rupert, and she has worked as a lawyer. (This is not to say that every lawyer worked either as a labourer or in a fish-packing plant). She is blessed with a mind

that can grapple with and understand very complex issues. She has the ability to be very objective at times when it may be very difficult to be so. She has a sense of humour and a talent for music which she has amply demonstrated on a number of occasions for members of the Bar and law students. She has the stamina and the constitution (no pun intended) to withstand the rigors of parliamentary life.

While she sat in the British Columbia legislature, Ms. Campbell was a member of seven governmental groups. She is the type of person who becomes fully involved in what she does and gives it her all. She rises to a challenge. While living in British Columbia Ms. Campbell was very active with a number of community organizations. Currently, she is kept very busy with balancing the requirements of a very demanding portfolio with the needs of her constituency and her personal life. Ms. Campbell is married and has no children.

As the first woman in Canadian history to hold the portfolio of Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, she brings a special viewpoint to the portfolio, not only as a British Columbia lawyer, but also as a woman. It is often been said that there are not enough women in politics; it is hoped that with Ms. Campbell as a role model, other women will embrace that challenge.

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