



## **Bios of Former Parliamentarians**

**Dianne Cunningham**, a member of the Progressive Conservative party, held a seat in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1988 to 2003 and was a cabinet minister in the governments of Mike Harris and Ernie Eves.

Ms. Cunningham was first elected to the Ontario legislature for the riding of London North in a 1988 by-election. She was re-elected in the 1990 provincial election. Ms. Cunningham served as her party's Deputy Leader and Caucus Whip from 1990 to 1995.

She was re-elected in the 1995 provincial election, and was appointed to cabinet in the portfolios of Minister of Intergovernment Affairs and Women's Issues. Ms. Cunningham retained these positions for the duration of the Harris government's first term.

In the provincial election of 1999, Ms. Cunningham was elected for the riding of London North Centre. Following the election, she was promoted to Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and retained that portfolio for the next four years. She was also re-appointed as Minister responsible for Women's Issues in 2001.

Ms. Cunningham was appointed Director of the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management at the University of Western Ontario's Ivey School of Business in 2004.

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**Joan M. Fawcett**, a member of the Liberal party, held a seat in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1987 to 1995.

Ms. Fawcett studied at Ottawa Teachers' College and Queen's University in Kingston. She worked as a teacher before entering politics.

Ms. Fawcett was a member of the David Peterson government following the provincial election in 1987.

Ms. Fawcett was appointed Deputy Government Whip, served as chair of the Liberal rural caucus from 1988 to 1990, and was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Skills Development in 1989. She was re-elected in the 1990 election and served as the Liberal party's caucus chair from 1990 to 1992, she also held a number of critic positions.

**Floyd Laughren** is a former parliamentarian who served in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1971 to 1998 as a member of the New Democratic Party. He was Finance Minister and Deputy Premier in the Bob Rae government.

He was first elected to the Ontario legislature in the 1971 provincial election in the Sudbury-area riding of Nickel Belt. He was re-elected in 1975, 1977, 1981, 1985, 1987 and 1990.

Mr. Laughren was educated at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and York University. Before entering politics, he taught Economics at Cambrian College in Sudbury.

In 1992, Mr. Laughren became the longest-serving member of the Ontario legislature. He retired in 1998, accepting an appointment from the Progressive Conservative government of Mike Harris to chair the Ontario Energy Board.

Mr. Laughren now sits on the Board of Governors for Laurentian University. In 2001, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from that institution. In 2006, he was appointed by the Greater Sudbury mayor to chair an advisory committee to review and recommend improvements to city services in the five-year-old amalgamated city.