PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN UNVEILS NEW CABINET

Ottawa – Prime Minister Paul Martin unveiled his new Cabinet in Ottawa today. This Cabinet, given the minority government situation in which the Liberals find themselves, is widely seen as the one which will carry Mr. Martin through to the next election.

In naming his new Cabinet, the Prime Minister chose to maintain a relatively large Cabinet, which at 38 Ministers is only smaller in size by one from the Cabinet he named in December 2003. The Prime Minister also struck a balance, retaining a core of senior Ministers in their previous portfolios, shifting other Ministers to new portfolios and injecting new vibrancy into Cabinet in the form of rookie MPs, long-serving back bench MPs and to a lesser extent, Chrétien-era Ministers.

Including the Prime Minister, there are 15 Ministers retaining their portfolios:

- Senator Jacob Austin, Leader of the Government in the Senate
- Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance
- Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- James Peterson, Minister of International Trade
- Reginald Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board
- Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
- Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation
- Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
- Judy Sgro, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
- Ruben John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources
- Guiseppe (Joseph) Volpe, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development
- Joseph McGuire, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- Joseph Robert Comuzzi, Minister of State (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario)
- Carolyn Bennett, Minister of State (Public Health)

There are 13 Ministers remaining in Cabinet, but in different portfolios:

- Lucienne Robillard, President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Pierre Stewart Pettigrew, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Andy Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
- Andrew Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
- William Graham, Minister of National Defence
- Albina Guarnieri, Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Tony Valeri, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons
- Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Status of Women
- Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of State (Human Resources Development)
- John McCallum, Minister of National Revenue
- Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport)
- Mauril Bélanger, Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Minister responsible for Official Languages, Minister responsible for Democratic Reform and Associate Minister of National Defence
- Jacques Saada, Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec and Minister responsible for the Francophonie
There are 10 new faces in Cabinet:

- Jean-C. Lapierre, Minister of Transport
- Stéphane Dion, Minister of Environment
- Joseph Frank Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing
- Scott Brison, Minister of Public Works and Government Services
- Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health
- Ken Dryden, Minister of Social Development
- David Emerson, Minister of Industry
- Raymond Chan, Minister of State (Multiculturalism)
- John Ferguson Godfrey, Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities)
- Tony Ianno, Minister of State (Families and Caregivers)

A full listing of the Canadian Ministry, including biographical notes can be accessed at http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/new_team.asp.

The Prime Minister lost a number of his former Ministers in the federal election. In addition, the Prime Minister chose not to retain the following MPs in his Cabinet or appoint them as Parliamentary Secretaries: David Anderson, Denis Coderre, Gar nutson, Denis Paradis and Jean Augustine.

The fate of Ethel Blondin-Andrew remains unclear. While she was not on the Cabinet list, she was also not included in the list of departing Ministers to whom the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude. Some have noted that this may be due to the judicial recount that is currently underway in her riding and that should she retain her seat she may subsequently be named to Cabinet.

**CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**

In a switch from the Cabinet shuffle in December, the Prime Minister has announced very few changes to the structure or machinery of government. According to the press release from the Prime Minister’s office, this has been done “so that attention can be focused on legislative and policy priorities.” This will be particularly important in the minority government situation that the Liberals face. As well, this may be the result of the somewhat chaotic situation that the major structural changes announced in December 2003 created within government.

Structural changes announced today include:

- New position of Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities).
- New position of Minister of State (Families and Caregivers) in the Social Development portfolio.
- New position of Minister of Labour and Housing, who will also be responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The Prime Minister continues to emphasize the role of Parliamentary Secretaries, who will once again be sworn in as Privy Councillors, allowing them to participate in some Cabinet discussions. Of note, all Parliamentary Secretaries previously had a special emphasis on a particular area within the Ministry to which they were connected. In this shuffle, some Parliamentary Secretaries retain a special emphasis on a particular area, while others are simply linked to a department. There are 28 Parliamentary Secretaries, an increase of 2. Information and biographies of Parliamentary Secretaries are available at http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/new_team_1.asp.

**OF INTEREST TO CO-OPERATIVES AND CREDIT UNIONS**

**Agriculture and Rural Development**

Former Agriculture Minister Bob Speller was defeated in the June 28th federal election. His portfolio will be filled by Ontario MP Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound-Muskoka) who was first elected in 1993. While Mr. Mitchell most recently served as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, he is no stranger to the Agriculture and Agri-Food portfolio or to the co-operative sector, having served as Secretary of State (Rural Development) between August 1999 and December 2003.

In this capacity, Mr. Mitchell assisted the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in pursuing and coordinating the government-wide initiatives set out in the Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada. As such, he was also responsible for relations with the co-operative sector. He spoke at the Annual General Meetings of both the Canadian Co-operative
Association (2000 and 2003) and Le Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC) in 2002. He is also very well informed regarding the federal government’s Co-operative Development Initiative. A bank manager by profession, Mr. Mitchell has also been Secretary of State (Parks) and he chaired the Standing Committee on Natural Resources in 1996 when it conducted national hearings on a framework for rural Canada, a report that was tabled in 1997.

Mr. Mitchell will be assisted by PEI MP Wayne Easter (Malpeque) who becomes Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food with special emphasis on Rural Development. This position, previously held by defeated MP Georges Farrah, is particularly significant since the position has been responsible for managing day-to-day relations with the co-operative sector. It remains to be seen whether this will remain the case.

Mr. Easter holds a diploma from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and a certificate from the Canadian International Grains Institute. He has previously served in Cabinet as Solicitor General of Canada. He was also a member of the Prime Minister’s Task Force on the Future of Farming and has been a member of several House Committees including the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Of note, Mr. Easter has previously attended CCA-sponsored events, including our spring 2000 briefing breakfast with the National Liberal Rural Caucus.

A newly-created position is that of Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with special emphasis on Rural Communities. This will be filled by Quebec MP Claude Drouin (Beauce). Mr. Drouin was first elected to the House of Commons in 1997. Most recently, he was Minister of State (Economic Development Agency for the Regions of Quebec).

Finance

Long-time Saskatchewan MP (Wascana) Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance continues to be a key player in Paul Martin’s Cabinet. Finance Canada is responsible for the federal Cooperative Credit Associations Act. Mr. Goodale was first elected to the House of Commons in 1974. After a stint in provincial politics, he returned to the House of Commons in 1993. Mr. Goodale is familiar with the co-operative sector, having previously served as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. He was supportive of the co-operative sector’s efforts to secure federal funding for co-operative development.

He will be assisted by Ontario MP John McKay (Scarborough East), who remains as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. However, he will no longer have a special emphasis on Public Private Partnerships. Mr. McKay was first elected to the House of Commons in 1997.

Industry

Industry Canada, which oversees the Canada Cooperatives Act, and which has a role in the implementation of the social economy funding announced in the last federal budget, also has a new Minister, David Emerson. Mr. Emerson (Vancouver Kingsway), a rookie MP, is well known in British Columbia and was one of the Liberal’s star candidates in the province. Most recently he was the President and CEO of Canfor Corporation, British Columbia’s largest forestry company. Other private sector experience includes leading the Vancouver International Airport Authority, and being President and CEO of the Western and Pacific Bank of Canada in Vancouver. Mr. Emerson’s private sector experience is balanced by experience in the public service at both the federal and provincial levels. Mr. Emerson has a PhD in Economics.

Ontario MP Jerry Pickard (Chatham Kent Essex) has been named Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry. Mr. Pickard was first elected in 1988.

International Cooperation

Of note for the Canadian Co-operative Association’s (CCA) international development program, Ontario MP Aileen Carroll (Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford) has been re-appointed Minister for International Co-operation. Ms. Carroll was first elected to Parliament in 1997. Senior staff from CCA, accompanied by CCA Executive Committee member and Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada President Wayne McLeod had a cordial meeting with Ms. Carroll in spring 2004.

Ms. Carroll will be assisted by fellow Ontario MP Patricia (Paddy) Torsney (Burlington), who has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation. This is a newly-created Parliamentary Secretary position. Ms. Torsney, first elected to the House of Commons in 1993, has served on numerous House Committees, including as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.
Social Development and the Social Economy

Ontario MP Ken Dryden (York Centre), another “star” rookie MP has been appointed Minister of Social Development. Mr. Dryden is best known as a goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens and since 1997 as President of the Toronto Maple Leafs. The Social Development portfolio is of interest to the co-operative sector, as the social economy file will shift to this department, given that Quebec MP Eleni Bakopanos (Ahuntsic) who was previously Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development with Special Emphasis on Social Economy will retain responsibility for the Social Economy, but will be linked to the Minister of Social Development.

Ms. Bakopanos has been supportive of the co-operative sector, attending the launch of CCA’s Building Community Assets Policy Framework and meeting with representatives of the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation, CCA and Le Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC).

Communities

Also of interest to the co-operative sector, is the newly created position of Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities) which will be filled by Ontario MP John Godfrey (Don Valley West). According to the Prime Minister, this new position will “better position the government to advance its agenda for Canadian cities and communities in strong collaboration with partners across the country.” The communities agenda may hold some opportunities for the co-operative sector given that co-operatives and credit unions are local community-based organizations.

Mr. Godfrey is a nationally-known academic, author and editor, first elected to Parliament in 1993. He has chaired the House Industry Committee, served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation and as Chair of the Liberal Caucus Social Policy Committee for four years.