

MANITOBA'S 21ST PREMIER: GREG SELINGER

With former Premier Gary Doer's stunning resignation from elected politics on August 27, 2009, a new face at the helm of our province was inevitable. What wasn't clear at the time was that the new face would be one very familiar to Manitobans.

Greg Selinger was certainly no stranger to provincial politics having served as Finance Minister since the NDP electoral victory of October 1999. During this time he oversaw a number of key initiatives and introduced 10 consecutive balanced budgets. Before his time as Finance Minister, the MLA for St. Boniface cut his teeth in municipal politics, being elected in 1989 as a councillor for the City of Winnipeg. His appointments during this time included chair of the City's Committee on Finance and Administration as well as a seat on the Executive Policy Committee.

Much of Premier Selinger's work in public life has been built on a solid academic base. He was educated at the University of Manitoba, Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and the London School of Economics, where he received his Ph.D. Prior to entering politics he was Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba, teaching courses in social policy and community development.

Premier Selinger is married to Claudette Toupin and they have two sons.

The AMM recently asked the Premier what were his priorities for municipalities in the coming years. He replied:

"Our priority for Manitoba communities is to build on a strong commitment to economic stimulus investments to create and preserve jobs during challenging economic times, and develop permanent assets that provide long-term benefits to communities. These investments are supporting more than 1,500 projects in every region of the province, creating 12,000 direct jobs and an additional 10,000 jobs in related industries.

I also think it is vital to ensure municipalities have the resources they need to work on our shared priorities. Since we were elected, revenue sharing has increased by 84%. I am committed to building on the success of that strong partnership."

The AMM is looking forward to working with Premier Selinger in his new role.



Premier Greg Selinger addressed AMM delegates at the Annual Convention Gala of November 25, 2009.

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A NEW NAME AND A NEW FACE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER RON LEMIEUX

On November 3rd, 2009 Premier Selinger rebranded the municipal portfolio as Local Government, replacing the department of Intergovernmental Affairs. Appointed to lead the new department was **Ron Lemieux**.

Minister Lemieux was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1999 in the constituency of La Verendrye, becoming the first successful NDP candidate in the riding's history. Since his election Minister Lemieux has served as Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, Minister of Education and Youth, Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

An educator prior to entering public life, Lemieux earned his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Winnipeg. He also completed post baccalaureate certification in education from the University of Manitoba.

Before becoming an educator Minister Lemieux worked as a recreation director. He was also employed as a provincial civil servant and brings with him an intimate knowledge of how government works. Minister Lemieux was also a standout defenseman for the Dauphin Kings of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, helping lead them to the 1971-72 title.

The Minister's community involvement has included coaching and serving as volunteer Vice-President of the Lorette Sports Centre. Ron and his wife Val have lived near Lorette for over 30 years and they have three adult children.

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– Minister Ron Lemieux




Minister Ron Lemieux also addressed AMM delegates.

The Municipal Leader asked Minister Lemieux for his thoughts on his new portfolio and his new department and he said:

“As the new Minister of Local Government, I am excited by the opportunity to work in a proactive cooperative way with all municipal governments. Together we can build a more vibrant province by expanding and renewing our infrastructure, growing our communities and creating the

economic opportunities needed to make our province strong and a great place to be. The new Department of Local Government represents a change in focus and a recognition that we are here to work directly in partnership with municipal governments across the province.”

As Minister of Local Government, we look forward to seeing Minister Lemieux at many future AMM events. 

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