

May 18, 2011

NEW FEDERAL CABINET ANNOUNCED

Prime Minister Harper today announced his new cabinet, appointing **Hon. Denis Lebel** (Roberval—Lac-Saint-Jean) Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec. **Hon. Edward Fast** (Abbotsford) is now the Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway. **Hon. Steven John Fletcher** (Charleswood-St.James-Assiniboia) is now the Minister of State for Transport.

WESTAC congratulates Minister Lebel, Minister Fast and Minister Fletcher on their appointments and looks forward to working together to improve transportation in Western Canada.

PMO News Release -<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4109>

Hon. Denis Lebel, Roberval—Lac-Saint-Jean (Quebec)

Denis Lebel was first elected to the House of Commons in 2007 and was re-elected in 2008 and 2011. Mr. Lebel was appointed Minister of State for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec in 2008.

Mr. Lebel has served on a number of parliamentary committees, as well as on the executive committees of the Canada-Europe and Canada-France parliamentary associations.

Prior to entering federal politics, Mr. Lebel was Mayor of Roberval from 2000 to 2007 and was a member of the board of directors, executive board and forest committee of the Union des municipalités du Québec. He also chaired the Caucus des municipalités voisines des Premières Nations and sat on the board of directors of Infrastructure Québec.

Mr. Lebel and his wife, Danielle, have two children.

Hon. Edward Fast, Abbotsford (British Columbia)

Edward Fast was first elected to the House of Commons in 2006, and was re-elected in 2008 and 2011.

Prior to his appointment to the Ministry, Mr. Fast served as a member of the standing committees on Canadian Heritage and on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities,

and as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

Mr. Fast's Private Member's Bill C-277 to amend the Criminal Code to increase the maximum sentence for luring children over the Internet for sexual purposes from 5 to 10 years in prison, received Royal Assent in 2007 and became the law of Canada.

In 1985, Mr. Fast was elected to the Abbotsford School Board and served two terms. In 1996, he was elected to Abbotsford City Council where he served for nine years. During that time, he served variously as deputy mayor and chair of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

After graduating from law school at the University of British Columbia in 1982, he started his own law firm, Linley Welwood.

Mr. Fast and his wife, Annette, have lived in Abbotsford for over 29 years and have four daughters.

Hon. Steven John Fletcher, Charleswood–St. James–Assiniboia (Manitoba)

Steven Fletcher was first elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and re-elected in 2006, 2008 and 2011. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Health in February 2006 and, in October 2008, he was appointed Minister of State (Democratic Reform).

Prior to entering politics, Mr. Fletcher worked as an engineer in the mining industry.

Mr. Fletcher is the first permanently disabled Canadian to be elected to the House of Commons.

He was twice elected the President of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba and has played a leading role in many community organizations.

Mr. Fletcher has a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor of science degree in engineering.

He lives in Winnipeg.