

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

## AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2025

British Columbia (B.C.) has had two women premiers and was the second province or territory in Canada to achieve gender parity in its legislature, with at least half of its MLAs being women. The Legislative Assembly of B.C. seats 93 members, of which 49 are women (52.7%). B.C.'s last election took place in October 2024



**Population**  
5,698,430



**Female to Male**  
50.4% : 49.6%



**GDP**  
\$309+ billion

### GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

B.C. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **Legislative Assembly of British Columbia**. As a parliamentary democracy, B.C. has 93 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**.

The political party with the most elected MLAs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MLAs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



### CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

(as of Mar 2025)

**Premier:** David Eby (M)

**Assumed office:** 18 Nov. 2022

**Party:** B.C. New Democratic Party

28 Cabinet Members

17 women (60.7%) : 11 men (39.3%)

#### Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Deputy Premier
- Finance
- Labour
- Infrastructure
- Health
- Agriculture & Food

### CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Mar 2025)

93 MLAs total\*

49 women (52.7%) : 44 men (47.3%)

#### MLAS PER PARTY

**B.C. New Democratic Party:** 47 MLAs  
31 women (66.0%) : 16 men (34.0%)

**Conservative Party of B.C.:** 41 MLAs  
16 women (39.0%) : 25 men (61.0%)

**B.C. Green Party:** 2 MLAs  
0 women (0%) : 2 men (100%)

**One B.C. Party:** 2 MLAs  
2 women (100%) : 0 men (0%)

**Independent MLAs:** 0 women, 1 man



### LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

(as of Mar 2025)

31 Lieutenant Governors since 1871  
4 women : 27 men

**Current Lieutenant Governor:**  
Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia (W)

### PAST PREMIERS

(as of Mar 2025)

36 Premiers since 1871  
2 women : 34 men

**Rita Johnston:** 2 Apr. 1991 - 5 Nov. 1991

**Christy Clark:** 14 Mar. 2011 - 18 Jul. 2017

## MILESTONES

**1918**

Mary Ellen Smith was the first woman MLA elected in B.C.

**1921**

Mary Ellen Smith was the first woman named to Cabinet in B.C. Smith was also the first woman Cabinet Minister anywhere in Canada or in the whole British Empire.

**1950**

Nancy Hodges was the first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of B.C. This legislature was the first in the Commonwealth to elect a woman as Speaker.

**1972**

Rosemary Brown was elected to B.C.'s legislature. Brown was the first Black woman elected to any provincial legislature in Canada.

**1991**

Rita Johnston was the first woman premier of B.C., and the first woman premier of any Canadian province or territory.

**2001**

Iona Campagnolo was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of B.C.

**2017**

B.C. had the longest-serving woman premier in Canada. Christy Clark served for over six years from 2011-2017.

**2024**

B.C. was the second Canadian province or territory to have a women-majority legislature (52.7% women), following the Northwest Territories in 2021.