

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

British Columbia (B.C.) has had two women serve as premier 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
5,658,528



Female to Male
50.5% : 49.5%



GDP
\$322.4+ 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:

-Attorney General & Deputy Premier	-Infrastructure -Labour
-Emergency Management & Climate Readiness	-Social Development & Poverty Reduction
-Agriculture & Food	-Public Safety & Solicitor General.
-Finance	

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.: 38 MLAs
14 women (36.8%) : 24 men (63.2%)

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

Independent MLAs: 6 MLAs
4 women (66.7%), 2 men (33.3%)

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.