

## Pauline Marois

Premier of Québec



Pauline Marois is the first-ever female Premier of Québec. Originally from Québec City's Limoilou district, Pauline Marois grew up in Saint-Étienne-de-Lauzon. She holds a bachelor's degree in social services from Université Laval and an MBA from HEC Montréal business school.

Very early on in her career, Pauline Marois proved she had the makings of a pioneer and a leader. In the seventies, she helped establish the Association des coopératives d'économie familiale de l'Outaouais, a consumer rights advocacy group. She was also involved in creating the province's first television cooperative and setting up social emergency services at the Centre des services sociaux du Montréal métropolitain.

In 1978, she made her official entry into the political arena as the press attaché to then Minister of Finance Jacques Parizeau. A year later, she was named Chief of Staff for the Minister of State for the Status of Women, Lise Payette. She was elected to the National Assembly for the first time in 1981, as the Member for La Peltrie, and would be re-elected four times as Member for Taillon (1989, 1994, 1998 and 2003). Pauline Marois has headed numerous ministries, including the Status of Women, Labour and Income Security, Revenue, Education, Child and Family Welfare, Health and Social Services, Economy and Finance, Research, Science and Technology, and Industry and Trade. She has also served as Chair of the Conseil du trésor.

Pauline Marois has occupied more ministries than anyone else in the history of Québec, giving her a profound understanding of the issues facing the people of Québec and the inner workings of the Québec State. She was also Deputy Premier from 2001 to 2003.

Elected as representative for the riding of Charlevoix in 2007, and again in 2008, Pauline Marois led the second opposition party before heading the official opposition. On September 19, 2012, following the September 4 general election that brought her party into power, the Member for Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré was sworn in as Premier of Québec.

In her 30 years in politics, Pauline Marois has helped advance Québec's position in many regards. She played a role in introducing the AccèsLogis program for the construction of social housing. She was also the driving force behind the province's first-ever family policy, which spurred the creation of educational childcare services, parental insurance and numerous work-life balance measures. Throughout the nineties, she was also instrumental in balancing public finances, while at the same time helping to introduce *An Act respecting prescription drug insurance*. As Minister of Finance, faced with the economic downturn following the attacks of September 11, 2001, she managed to bring Québec's job creation levels to record highs in 2002.

She is married to Claude Blanchet, with whom she has four children and five grandchildren.