

## Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

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### Honourable Thomas G. Rideout

Veteran MHA and Cabinet Minister Tom Rideout is the province's Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. He was sworn into this position on November 8, 2005, and simultaneously received the portfolio of Deputy Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador and maintained his role of Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. Minister Rideout was first sworn in as Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs on November 6, 2003, at which time he was also pointed to the position of the Minister of Transportation and Works (formerly Works, Services and Transportation).

This came just 14 days after Minister Rideout was successfully re-elected to represent the people of Lewisporte District, a position he was first elected to in February 1999.

In 1994, Minister Rideout enrolled in Law School at the University of Ottawa, and in 1997 graduated with a Baccalaureate of Laws (LL.B.). He articulated in St. John's with Morris, Pittman and Powell and was admitted to the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador as a Barrister, Solicitor and Notary in June 1998. Minister Rideout served as an associate in the practice of law with Fraize Law Offices.

Prior to pursuing law, Minister Rideout served as Leader of the Official Opposition between May 1989 and September 1991, after which he served as a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada until 1993.

In 1989, he was elected Leader of the Newfoundland and Labrador Progressive Conservative Party, and on March 22, became the province's fourth Premier since Confederation. He led the government until May 5, 1989, and also held the portfolio of Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs during his tenure as Premier.

Prior to becoming Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Minister Rideout served in Premier Brian Peckford's Cabinet as Minister of Fisheries between 1985 and 1989 and Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth between 1984 and 1985.

Minister Rideout entered politics in 1975, representing the people of Baie Verte-White Bay District. He retained this seat in the House of Assembly on four successive occasions, in 1979, 1982, 1985 and 1989.

Prior to entering public life, Minister Rideout was a teacher at St. Theresa's All-Grade School at Fleur de Lys and St. Pius X Central High School at Baie Verte, where he also served as vice-principal.

Tom was born and raised in Fleur de Lys. He and his late wife, Jacinta, have four children, Terry, Tina, Margaret and Kara-Lynn.