

# Premier's Biography



## **Jean Charest**

Member for Sherbrooke  
Premier  
Québec Liberal Party

Born in Sherbrooke on June 24, 1958

### **Education**

Secondary studies, Montcalm School, Sherbrooke  
College studies, Sherbrooke Seminary  
Law degree, Sherbrooke University (1980)  
Québec Bar (1981)

### **Professional experience**

- Articling student, legal aid programme (1980-1981)
- Lawyer with Beauchemin, Dussault, Sherbrooke (1981-1984)

### **Political, parliamentary and ministerial functions**

**Elected to the House of Commons, Ottawa, as MP for Sherbrooke in the general election held on September 4, 1984**

- Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, September 18, 1984 to June 29, 1986
- Minister of State for Youth, Ottawa, June 30, 1986 to January 20, 1988

**Reelected to the House of Commons, Ottawa, as MP for Sherbrooke in the general election held on November 21, 1988**

- Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, April 30, 1988 to January 20, 1990
- Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Ottawa
- Chair, Special Committee to Study the Proposed Companion Resolution to the Meech Lake Accord, 1990
- Minister of the Environment, April 21, 1991 to June 24, 1993
- Member, Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning and Committee on Canadian Unity and Constitutional Negotiations
- Leadership candidate, Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, Ottawa, 1993
- Deputy Prime Minister, June 25 to October 26, 1993
- Minister of Industry and Science, June 25 to October 26, 1993
- Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development - Québec, June 25 to October 26, 1993

**Reelected to the House of Commons, Ottawa, as MP for Sherbrooke in the general election held on October 25, 1993**

- Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, December 14, 1993 to April 30, 1998
- Vice-chair, National Committee of Quebecers for the NO side, June to November 1, 1995

**Reelected to the House of Commons, Ottawa, as MP for Sherbrooke in the general election held on June 2, 1997**

- Leader of the Québec Liberal Party since April 30, 1998

**Elected as Member for Sherbrooke in the general election held on November 30, 1998**

- Leader of the Official Opposition, December 15, 1998 to April 29, 2003
- Official Opposition critic for youth matters, January 19, 1999 to April 29, 2003

**Reelected as Member for Sherbrooke in the general election held on April 14, 2003**

- Premier of Québec since April 29, 2003
- Minister responsible for Youth Issues since April 29, 2003
- Chair, Comité des priorités, April 29, 2003 to June 13, 2003 and again since February 18, 2005

**Reelected as Member for Sherbrooke in the general election held on March 26, 2007**

- Premier of Québec since April 18, 2007
- Minister responsible for Youth Issues since April 18, 2007
- Responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region since June 25, 2008
- Chair of the Comité des priorités since June 25, 2008

**Reelected as Member for Sherbrooke in the general election held on December 8, 2008**