

ED FAST



Former Trade Minister, currently Conservative Critic for Environment

The Honourable Ed Fast was first elected to the House of Commons in 2006, and was re-elected in 2008, 2011, and 2015. He had previously served for two terms as an Abbotsford School Trustee and for three terms as a member of Abbotsford City Council.

A graduate of the University of British Columbia, Ed practiced corporate and commercial law for 24 years.

On May 18, 2011, former Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed Ed to his cabinet to serve as Minister of International Trade. He assumed responsibility for development of the Government of Canada's Global Markets Action Plan, which is creating a more competitive Canadian economy by deepening Canada's trade and investment ties in large, dynamic and fast-growing economies around the world. His recent accomplishments include free trade agreements with the European Union, South Korea, Ukraine and the recently-concluded Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). He also oversaw negotiations on modernizing free trade agreements with Israel and Chile and commenced free trade negotiations with countries such as India and Japan. In fall of 2015, Minister Fast became Canada's longest serving Trade Minister.

Prior to his appointment to cabinet, Ed served as a member of the standing committees on Canadian Heritage, and Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice & Human Rights.

Minister Fast's Private Member's Bill C-277 to amend the Criminal Code to increase the maximum sentence for luring children over the Internet for sexual purposes from 5 to 10 years in prison received Royal Assent in 2007 and became the law of Canada.

In 2011, he was appointed Queen's Counsel for British Columbia, and more recently was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to his community and country.

Following the 2015 Federal Election, Ed was appointed to the Shadow Cabinet by Conservative Party Interim Leader, the Hon. Rona Ambrose. He currently serves as the Official Opposition Critic for the Environment and Climate Change.

Mr. Fast and his wife, Annette, have lived in Abbotsford, British Columbia, for over 34 years. They have four daughters, two sons-in-law and four grandchildren.