

The Honourable Diana Whalen, M.B.A., C.P.A., C.M.A.



Diana Whalen was elected in four successive provincial elections as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Nova Scotia and served her community for 14 years. Throughout her political career, she worked successfully with members on all sides of the legislature. Her cabinet positions included Deputy Premier (2013-2017), Minister of Justice and Attorney General (2015- 2017) and Minister of Finance and Chair of the Treasury Board (2013-2015). In June 2018, she was appointed by the Federal Government to the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare. The seven member council has been leading a national dialogue on how to implement affordable national pharmacare for Canadians and their families, employers and governments.

Accomplishments while in government include:

- Delivering the first two budgets for Premier McNeil's government, both of which were characterized by fiscal restraint. The cultural shift and departmental discipline that was established during this time set the foundation for a balanced budget in 2016-17
- Overseeing the first comprehensive tax review in Nova Scotia
- Modernizing regulatory review and reducing unnecessary government regulations
- Co-chairing the annual meeting of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers of Justice in 2016 which focused national attention on Nova Scotia's groundbreaking work in restorative justice
- As Deputy Premier, leading the Atlantic Canadian Trade Mission to the European Union (2017) and representing the Province at a sensitive bilateral meeting with the Commerce Department in Washington as part of the successful efforts to defend Nova Scotia's interests in the softwood lumber dispute

In 2000 Diana began her political life as a Councillor for the Halifax Regional Municipality. She earned a reputation for bringing people with diverse viewpoints together in a common cause and responding effectively to community concerns. Her most notable community work as a Member of the Legislature was:

- Championing the protection of the largest urban wilderness in Canada (Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area) and
- Fighting for recreational infrastructure to serve the fast growing and diverse community she represented, culminating in the opening of the \$45 million Canada Games Centre.

Diana lived and worked internationally for 8 years in South Korea, Australia and Jamaica and has 15 years' experience as a management consultant.

Diana was the recipient of the Women of Excellence Award, Canadian Progress Club and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters' Inspire Award for Public Service. She also received a Golden Scissor Award from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business for reducing red tape.

She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University, as well as being a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CMA).