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Scott Brison



Scott Brison, MP



Scott A. Brison, [PC](#), [MP](#), [BComm](#) (born [May 10, 1967](#), [Windsor, Nova Scotia](#)) is a [Canadian politician](#). He was [Minister of Public Works and Government Services](#) under [Paul Martin](#).

Brison represents the Nova Scotia riding of [Kings—Hants](#) as a [Liberal Member of Parliament](#). The first openly [gay](#) member of the [Cabinet of Canada](#) (though not the first gay Canadian MP—see below), he notes that he is "not a gay politician, but a politician who happens to be gay."

Biography

Brison obtained a Bachelor of Commerce from [Dalhousie University](#). While there, he started and operated a successful business renting [small fridges](#). Brison then worked in corporate sales for ten years. He entered politics as a [Progressive Conservative](#) candidate in the [Nova Scotia riding](#) of Kings—Hants in the [1997 election](#). Brison was one of a handful of new PC "Young Turk" MPs (along with [John Herron](#), [André Bachand](#) and [Peter MacKay](#)) who were considered the future youthful leadership material that would restore the ailing Tories to their glory days.

In July [2000](#), Brison resigned his seat on behalf of PC leader [Joe Clark](#), so that Clark could gain a seat in the [House of Commons](#). In the interim, Brison was appointed co-chair of the Tories' Election Policy Platform Committee, and became vice-president of investment banking at Yorkton Securities in [Toronto](#).

When the [2000 election](#) was called in October, Clark stood for election in a [Calgary, Alberta](#) riding. Brison returned as the PC candidate in Kings—Hants, and was returned to Parliament. In 2001, he served as the party's Finance and Industry critic, and was vice-chairman of the House of Commons Finance committee. Brison came out as gay in 2002, becoming the fourth sitting Member of Parliament to do so after [Svend Robinson](#), [Réal Ménard](#) and [Libby Davies](#). He was the first openly gay Progressive Conservative MP.

In [2003](#), following Clark's retirement, Brison ran for the leadership of the Progressive Conservatives on a platform of "new ideas", that consisted of Employment Insurance reform, more private involvement in healthcare, integrated defense strategy with the US, and socially liberal policies. Although he was widely judged to have run a strong campaign, at the [leadership convention](#), he came in fourth place and threw his support to [Jim Prentice](#). Prentice lost on the final ballot to MacKay (who won with the support of farmer [David Orchard](#)). He fought publicly with other members of his party, particularly [Elsie Wayne](#), over their opposition to [same-sex marriage](#).

On [December 10th, 2003](#), four days after Brison voted in favour of the PCs merging with the [Canadian Alliance](#) to form the new [Conservative Party of Canada](#), Brison announced that he would cross the floor and sit as a Liberal MP. He stated that he had reservations about the perceived dominance of former members of the more socially conservative Canadian Alliance in the new party. Brison was criticized for this move, however, especially because he had actively supported the merger when it was first proposed.

On [December 12](#), he was appointed as a [parliamentary secretary](#) and sworn into the [Queen's Privy Council for Canada](#). In the [2004 election](#), Brison was re-elected, his first victory as a Liberal. On [July 20, 2004](#), Brison was named to cabinet as Minister of Public Works in Martin's post-election shuffle. In doing so, he became Canada's first openly gay cabinet minister.

He announced in October 2005 that he and his partner, Maxime Saint-Pierre, intended to marry. They have not yet set a date. ^[1]

In March 2006, it was revealed that Brison had sent emails to a [CIBC](#) banker the day before the government's announcement on the taxation of [income trusts](#). Brison said to the banker that "I think you will be happier very soon... this week probably". Although Brison claimed not to have any insider knowledge of the announcement, the emails created the perception that he had leaked the news in advance of the announcement, and the ensuing controversy damaged Brison's image.

He has been rumoured to be preparing a run in the [2006 Liberal leadership race](#).

27th Ministry - Government of [Paul Martin](#)

Predecessor	Cabinet Post Office	Successor
Stephen Owen	Minister of Public Works and Government Services (2004-2006)	Michael Fortier
Preceded by: John Murphy, Liberal	Member of Parliament for Kings—Hants 1997-2000	Succeeded by: Joe Clark , Progressive Conservative
Preceded by: Joe Clark , Progressive Conservative	Member of Parliament for Kings—Hants 2000-present	Succeeded by: incumbent



Nova Scotia Caucus serving in the [38th Canadian Parliament](#).

Senators [John Buchanan](#) (Con), [Gerald J. Comeau](#) (Con), [Jane Marie Cordy](#) (Lib), [Jim Cowan](#) (Lib), [J. Michael Forrestall](#) (Con), [Michael J. L. Kirby](#) (Lib), [Terry M. Mercer](#) (Lib), [Wilfred P. Moore](#) (Lib), [Donald H. Oliver](#) (Con), [Gerard Phalen](#) (Lib)

Members of Parliament [Scott Brison](#) (Lib), [Bill Casey](#) (Con), [Rodger Cuzner](#) (Lib), [Mark Eyking](#) (Lib), [Gerald Keddy](#) (Con), [Peter MacKay](#) (Con), [Alexa McDonough](#) (NDP), [Geoff Regan](#) (Lib), [Michael Savage](#) (Lib), [Peter Stoffer](#) (NDP), [Robert Thibault](#) (Lib)

Parliamentary caucuses by province and territory
[AB](#) [BC](#) [MB](#) [ON](#) [NB](#) [NL](#) [NS](#) [NT](#) [NU](#) [PE](#) [QC](#) [SK](#) [YT](#)

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