Senator Gerry St. Germain, PC (b. 1937)

Senator Gerry St. Germain was born on November 6, 1937 at St. Boniface, Manitoba. He was first elected to the House of Commons for the riding of Mission-Port Moody (British Columbia) in 1983 and re-elected in 1984. He was appointed to the Canadian Senate on July 23, 1993.

Gerry St. Germain is the first Métis to be a member of the federal cabinet; he is now a senator from British Columbia. He is currently the senior Senator for British Columbia. He was first elected to the House of Commons in a 1983 by-election, re-elected in 1984. He was sworn to the Queen's Privy Council when appointed Minister of State (Transport) March 31, 1988. He was also appointed Minister of Forestry October 1988. He was appointed to the Senate June 23, 1993.
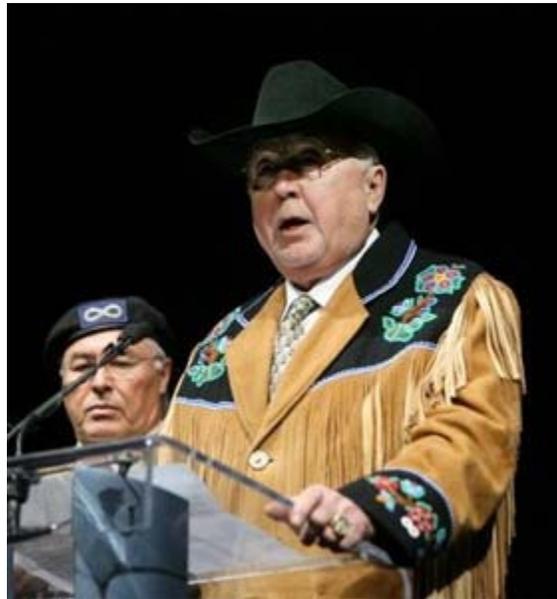
Senator St. Germain grew up in the Metis community of "Petit Canada," across the Assiniboine River from St. François Xavier, Manitoba. The senator is a descendant of Cuthbert Grant. He is a graduate of St. François Xavier High School and St. Paul's College (Winnipeg). St. Germain had various jobs prior to entering politics working variously as a Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, an RCMP officer, a building contractor and a poultry farmer and horse ranch operator in B.C.'s Pemberton Valley.

St. Germain was president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada in the 1980s and was elected to a seat in the Canadian House of Commons in 1983 through a by-election on the same day that Brian Mulroney was elected. He was re-elected in 1984 and served as National Caucus Chair, then as Minister of State for Transport and later as Minister of State for Forestry. He was appointed to the Senate in June 1993 just prior to Mulroney's retirement. St. Germain has served on various committees in the Senate including the chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

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