



### **About The Honorable Michael Wilson:**

Michael Wilson, a finance minister and trade minister in the [Brian Mulroney](#) government, came back into the public eye with his nomination by Prime Minister [Stephen Harper](#) as Canadian Ambassador to the United States. A stock broker and investment banker by profession, Michael Wilson was responsible for introduction of the controversial [GST](#) in 1990 and also helped negotiate the North-American Free Trade Agreement. He served as *Chairman & CEO of UBS Global Asset Management (Canada) Co.*, one of Canada's largest managers of pension fund and other institutional investments. Prior to July 2000, Mr. Wilson was Vice-Chairman and Director of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. He has held senior federal cabinet posts in Finance and Industry, Science and Technology, and International Trade in the Government of Canada. He has also been active in a number of community organizations in Canada and the United States and served as the Chair of the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships and the Canadian Coalition on Good Governance.

### **Education:**

University of Toronto  
London School of Economics

### **Political Career of Michael Wilson:**

- Michael Wilson was first elected to the House of Commons as a Progressive Conservative MP in 1979.
- He was Minister of State for International Trade from 1979 to 1980. The Progressive Conservatives were defeated in 1980, but Michael Wilson hung on to his seat.
- Michael Wilson ran for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1983, but after the first ballot threw his support to [Brian Mulroney](#), who went on to win.
- When the Progressive Conservatives came back into power in 1984 with Brian Mulroney as Prime Minister, Michael Wilson became Minister of Finance.
- In 1990, Michael Wilson was responsible for the introduction of the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#), which was controversial enough that extra senators were appointed to get it through the Senate.
- From 1991 to 1993 Michael Wilson was Minister of Industry and also Minister of International Trade and helped negotiate the North America Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Mexico.
- Michael Wilson did not run in the 1993 general election and returned to Bay Street to run his own financial services consulting firm.
- Michael Wilson was the Conservative Party campaign co-chair in the 2006 federal campaign. --
- Michael Wilson was nominated by Prime Minister [Stephen Harper](#) to be Canadian Ambassador to the United States in February 2006.