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# New Federal Health Minister: Cabinet Shuffle Recap

By: Grant Burns, Public Affairs and Communications Manager

As part of a federal cabinet shuffle announced on Monday, August 28, Canada's Minister of Health is now Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Member of Parliament from the riding of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe in New Brunswick.

In total, six MPs had their portfolios changed, addressing two issues for the federal government:

1. The Ministry of Indigenous & Northern Affairs was split in two: the previous Minister of Health, Jane Philpott, will now take over the new Ministry of Indigenous Services and Carolyn Bennett will remain responsible for the Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. To replace Minister Philpott at Health, it is noteworthy that Ginette Petitpas Taylor was promoted from outside cabinet, where she had been serving as Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance.
2. To fill the vacancy in the Ministry of Public Services & Procurement caused by Min Judy Foote stepping down last week, Carla Qualtrough was promoted from the Ministry of Sport & Persons with Disabilities. To replace her, Kent Hehr was moved out of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and he was replaced by Seamus O'Regan, who had been the Associate Minister, National Defence.

Name	New Portfolio	Previous Portfolio	Notes
Ginette Petitpas Taylor, MP	Health	Parliamentary Secretary, Finance	
Jane Philpott, MP	Indigenous Services	Health	
Carolyn Bennett, MP	Crown-Indigenous Relations	Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs	
Carla Qualtrough, MP	Public Services and Procurement	Sport and Persons with Disabilities	To replace Min Judy Foote who stepped down last week
Seamus O'Regan, MP	Veterans Affairs	National Defence (Associate Minister)	
Kent Hehr, MP	Sport and Persons with Disabilities	Veterans Affairs	

### Background

**Minister Petitpas Taylor** has a bachelor's degree in social work from the Université de Moncton and prior to her election, she was the coordinator for the Victim's Services Program of the local detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Between 2004 to 2008, she was the chairwoman of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

While she did not have a particularly high public profile before entering politics, Petitpas Taylor did win the nomination against the sitting mayor of Moncton, George LeBlanc, in 2015. In light of the organizing skills required to win such a race, perhaps her rapid rise from rookie MP in 2015 to Minister of Health should not be surprising.

**Minister Jane Philpott** takes over the new Ministry of Indigenous Services after handling negotiations with the provinces on healthcare funding. Minister Philpott was a family physician in Stouffville prior to her election. She served as Chief of the Department of Family Medicine at Markham-Stouffville Hospital from 2008 to 2014. She has a medical degree from the University of Western Ontario.

**Minister Carolyn Bennett**, previously Minister of Indigenous & Northern Affairs, now heads up a new Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs. Minister Bennett has a medical degree from the University of Toronto and worked as a family physician at Wellesley Hospital and Women's College Hospital. She has been an MP since 1997.

**Minister Carla Qualtrough** moves from the Ministry of Sport and Persons with Disabilities to take over as Minister of Public Services and Procurement. Minister Qualtrough is a former Paralympic swimmer, who won three bronze medals competing in the 1988 and 1992 Paralympic Games. She earned her law degree from the University of Victoria and worked as counsel to the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal and the Canadian Human Rights Commission, prior to her election in 2015.

**Minister Seamus O'Regan** is the new Minister of Veterans Affairs. Minister O'Regan was previously the host of CTV's Canada AM and before that worked in politics as an assistant to Environment Minister Jean Charest in Ottawa, and as an advisor to Brian Tobin, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. He has a Masters of Philosophy in Politics from Darwin College at the University of Cambridge.

**Minister Kent Hehr** takes over as Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, leaving Veterans Affairs. Hehr served as an MLA in Alberta for more than seven years before his election to the House of Commons in 2015. Hehr is a lawyer and earned his degree from the University of Calgary.