



Honourable John van Dongen
Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations

John van Dongen was appointed Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations on June 16, 2005 and was selected by Premier Gordon Campbell, in July 2005, to be British Columbia's representative to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), a partnership whose members include British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, Alaska, Washington State, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

He previously served as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Mr. van Dongen also previously served as agriculture and fisheries critic for the Official Opposition. He sat on the Select Standing Committees on Agriculture and Fisheries and on Crown Corporations, as well as the Official Opposition Caucus Committee on Children.

He was first elected in 1995 in a by-election to represent the riding of Abbotsford and was re-elected in 1996. He was elected to the Abbotsford-Clayburn riding in 2001, and re-elected in 2005.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. van Dongen operated a dairy farm in Abbotsford. He studied agricultural economics at the University of British Columbia.

Mr. van Dongen was involved in farm organizations and businesses for almost two decades including the B.C. Dairy Foundation, Agrifoods International Co-operative (Dairyland), the B.C. Federation of Dairymen's Association and was a member of the Federal Farm Debt Review Board.

He was also chair of the building and finance committee of his church for ten years.

John van Dongen is married, lives in Abbotsford and has two children.