

Ben Stewart Bio

Ben Stewart was elected MLA for Westside-Kelowna in 2009 and 2013. He was re-elected in a by-election in 2018 in the riding of Kelowna-West. Ben is currently the Official Opposition Critic for Trade in the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

Mr. Stewart previously served as Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Community and Rural Development (Municipal Affairs) and Minister of Citizens' Services. In October of 2013, Stewart was appointed British Columbia's Special Representative in Asia to act as the province's official on-the-ground representative to further strengthen BC's government-to-government relationships in China, Japan, Korea, India and Southeast Asia.

He also has extensive experience serving the community as a board and advisory member with UBCO, Okanagan College and Kelowna General Hospital Foundation. He also served on the Regional District's advisory planning commission and Westside governance committee.

The Stewart family has farmed continuously in Kelowna since 1908. Having grown up in Kelowna, Ben has farmed vineyards and a diverse mixture of orchards and tree fruits with his family for over 40 years and is regarded as a pioneer of today's premium wine industry.

In 1989, he founded and built Quails' Gate into one of Canada's leading estate wineries. Later, under his leadership as chair of VQA Canada, the organization successfully resolved a significant number of National and International Trademark and Trade issues.

Ben lives in West Kelowna and has three children and five grandchildren.