

With a public service career spanning almost 30 years, Honourable Jean Charest is one of Canada's best known political figures.

As Minister of the Environment, he led his country's delegation at the 1992 Earth Summit on the economy and the environment in Rio. At the summit, he was praised for his leadership among G7 countries on climate change and biodiversity.

The Charest government has been a world leader on the environment and climate change, having brought forward the first carbon levy in North America with the implementation of its climate change policy. His government implemented ground-breaking legislation on sustainable development, and legislation to implement a cap and trade scheme to limit CO₂ emissions working through the Western Climate Initiative.

He also committed to meeting the Kyoto target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a 6% total reduction by 2012 compared to 1990 levels. His legacy also includes a major initiative for the sustainable development of Northern Québec called "Plan Nord" which the New York Times described as "one of the largest land conservation initiatives in history".

In the area of energy, the Charest government pushed ahead with major hydro-electric and wind power projects. For the International arena, his administration was the most active in the history of Québec. The Charest government initiated an unprecedented labour mobility agreement between France and Québec, and convinced Canada and the European Union to negotiate a broad economic partnership.

Jean Charest joined the law firm McCarthy Tétrault as a Partner. He provides expertise with his in-depth knowledge with public policy, corporate Canada and international matters.