

## **Honourable Barry Penner, Q.C.**

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Barry Penner was confirmed as Attorney General on March 14, 2011, after initially being appointed as Attorney General in December 2010.

He was first elected to represent Chilliwack in 1996, was re-elected in the renamed riding of Chilliwack-Kent in 2001 and 2005 and then again in 2009 in the further renamed riding of Chilliwack-Hope.

Barry was appointed Minister of Environment in June 2005 and fulfilled this role until October 2010. He was the longest-serving environment minister in B.C. history and, by late 2009, was the longest-serving environment minister in Canada.

Barry was appointed Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation in October 2010, serving in this role until mid-March 2011.

Barry was raised in Chilliwack. He studied political science and economics at Simon Fraser University to earn his Bachelor of arts degree. He later earned his law degree from the University of Victoria. A former park ranger and sawmill worker, Barry also worked as a B.C. legislative intern in Victoria. In 1991, he worked for an international law firm in Bangkok and then later practiced law in Chilliwack until his election in 1996.

Barry was appointed co-chair of B.C.'s Alternative Energy and Power Technology Task Force in April 2005. He is keenly interested in renewable energy and conservation technologies.

Barry previously served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader, as chair of the government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources and was a member of the legislature's Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Barry has also chaired the legislature's Standing Committee on Parliamentary Reform, Ethical Conduct, Standing Orders and Private Bills and served as a member of the legislature's Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Review.

In 2001, Barry was appointed to lead B.C.'s delegation to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). He served as president of PNWER from June 2002 to July 2003 and remains active in PNWER issues.

Barry represents and lives in the electoral district of Chilliwack-Hope with his wife and daughter.