

**New Minister of Northern Development and Mines -
The Honourable Jim Wilson
MPP, Simcoe Grey**

April 22, 2002

Jim Wilson has been active in politics all of his life. During university and upon graduation, he was an assistant to former Ontario Management Board Chair George McCague. Federally, he was Special Assistant to Perrin Beatty in both the National Defence and Health and Welfare portfolios.

Raised and educated in Alliston, Ontario, Mr. Wilson studied political science and Christian studies at the University of Toronto where he also served on the university's Governing Council.

He was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as the member for Simcoe-West in September, 1990. When he was returned in 1995 to the new riding of Simcoe-Grey, he was appointed to cabinet as Minister of Health. In October of 1997, Premier Mike Harris assigned Mr. Wilson to the newly-formed Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology. He was returned to that position after his re-election in June, 1999.

Mr. Wilson is probably best known for having begun and implemented Ontario's health care reform process while he was Minister, and more recently, for championing electricity competition as sponsor of the government's Energy Competition Act. He is the first Ontario Cabinet Minister to have been given specific responsibility for Science and Technology, where his role is to keep the province on the leading edge of technological and scientific advancement.

Minister Wilson is a member of three Cabinet committees. He sits on the Economic and Resource Policy Committee, the Privatization and Superbuild Committee, and the Environment Committee.

Information on all of the appointments to the new Executive Council of Ontario is available at the following link:

http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/english/news/Cabinet041502_bd1.htm