

# Preston Manning

“The West Wants In.”

Preston Manning was profoundly shaped by the 1935 Social Credit landslide. His father, Ernest Manning, inherited William Aberhart’s mantle in 1943, serving as premier of Alberta until 1968. As a boy, Preston Manning did his homework in an anteroom to his father’s office at the Alberta Legislature, eavesdropping on petitioners and powerbrokers.

Born into a province sensitive about its second-class status, Manning measured the simmer of Western discontent. He translated that into a lifelong struggle to unite the right. Under his guidance, in 1987 the Reform Party of Canada was born. Manning was elected leader, but in the 1988 federal election every Reform candidate was defeated. For the next 13 years, Manning crisscrossed the country, arguing for fiscal conservatism and a neo-populist vision. In 1993 Reform won 52 seats. In 1997 they won 60 seats and became the official federal opposition.



Preston Manning

Although modest and reserved, Manning represented a new political and economic confidence for Albertans, a frontier approach to democracy. The West would no longer be ignored.

Born: June 10, 1942

## Additional Resources

- **The Alberta Order of Excellence**  
<https://www.alberta.ca/aoe-preston-manning.aspx>

## Our Collections

**Glenbow Museum**

<https://www.glenbow.org>

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**Glenbow Western Research Centre | Glenbow Library and Archives**

<https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/glenbowlibraryandarchives>

**Glenbow Library and Archives | Digital Collection**

<https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/asset-management/2R340826N9XM?WS=PackagePres&Flat=1>

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