

The **Bill Barlee** *Campaign*

Box 189, Osoyoos British Columbia, V0H 1V0

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Former NDP Cabinet Minister to Seek Federal Liberal Seat in BC

Osoyoos, BC, August 25, 2000 – Bill Barlee, a former high profile BC New Democratic Cabinet Minister today announced his intention to seek the federal Liberal Party nomination in the riding of Kootenay-Boundary-Okanagan. “I was born in Grand Forks, grew up in Rossland, taught in Trail, and now live in Osoyoos,” said Bill. “Even as an NDP Minister I had a lot of time for Jean Chrétien – he’s a fighter, he cares deeply about Canada, and he always speaks from the heart. I would be proud to represent this unique riding as a Liberal Member of Parliament.”

Bill Barlee is a writer, publisher, TV host and lecturer. Bill was first elected as a New Democratic Member of the BC Legislature in 1988, and was re-elected in 1991. As Minister of Agriculture, Fish, and Food from 1991 to 1993, Bill introduced the first *Buy BC* campaign, one that continues to expand the market for homegrown food and beverage products in BC today. As Minister of Small Business, Tourism, Culture and Film from 1993 to 1996, Bill presided over a period of unprecedented growth in the tourism, retail sales and film industries in BC.

“I’ve known Bill for over a decade. He worked hard to advance the interests of this region while he was in Victoria. We need him to do the same in Ottawa,” said Joe Cardoso, who represents Oliver on the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District Board.

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Since deciding to seek the nomination for the federal Liberal Party in Kootenay-Boundary-Okanagan, Bill has been traveling the riding talking to people of all political stripes about the issues that matter to them – everything from health care and jobs to registering guns.

“Already people who voted NDP, Conservative, and even Reform in the past have expressed deep concern to me about the narrow, right-wing agenda being pedaled by the Reform/Alliance,” said Bill. “People understand that what is at stake in the next federal election will be exactly what kind of country we want: this will be a watershed election. Will it be a country led by Jean Chrétien, that focuses on the opportunities for all of us in the future, or will it be one, led by Stockwell Day, that is mired in the narrow debates of the past? I have a lot of work to do in this special riding, but the response so far has been very positive and encouraging.”

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Bill Barlee

Biographical Notes

N.L. “Bill” Barlee is a writer, publisher, TV host and lecturer. Born in Grand Forks, British Columbia and raised in Rossland, he has 37 years experience in researching and writing about the historic small towns and mining camps of Western Canada and the United States.

Among Bill’s many publications are Gold Creeks and Ghost Towns and The Guide to Gold Panning each of which has sold over 100,000 copies. Over the past few decades Bill has carefully amassed an impressive collection of Old West artifacts. Parts of the Barlee collection have been loaned for display in the Museum of Civilisation in Ottawa, in Vancouver’s Chinese Cultural Centre Museum, and in other museums across the country. Parts of this collection have also been used in CHBC TV’s award winning series “Gold Trails and Ghost Towns,” which ran from 1986 to 1996 on five different networks.

In 1988 Bill was elected as a New Democratic Member of the BC Legislative Assembly. He represented the riding of Okanagan-Boundary and was re-elected in 1991. Bill worked for the riding as an NDP MLA until 1996 and during this time served as Minister of Agriculture, Fish and Food (1991-1993) and as Minister of Small Business, Tourism, Culture and Film (1993-1996).

Bill has received a number of honours during his career including: the “Golden Door” award from the Hotels and Motels of BC; the “Stellar Award” by the BC Restaurants and Food Services Association; and the “Visionary Award” from the Council of Tourism Associations.