

The greatest Prime Minister of Canada was Mackenzie King the 10th Prime Minister of Canada and by far one of Canada's greatest. William Lyon Mackenzie King accomplished a lot in his twenty-one years of ministering Canada! "It is what we prevent, rather than what we do that counts most in Government." (Mackenzie King August 26, 1936) This statement sums up the best secrets of Mackenzie King's success as prime minister, and perhaps, the key to governing Canada effectively. King's record of prime minister is sometimes difficult to judge. He had no uninteresting images, he gave no repetitive speeches, and he champions no drastic stage. He is remembered for his easygoing, passive compromise and conciliation. Yet Mackenzie King led Canada for a total of twenty-two years, through half the Depression and all of the Second World War. Like every other prime minister, he had to possess ambition, endurance and determination to become prime minister and, in spite of appearances, his accomplishments in that role required political acuity, decisiveness and faultless judgment.

William Lyon Mackenzie King was born in Berlin (later renamed Kitchener), Ontario in 1874. His father was a lawyer and his maternal grandfather was William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada. From an early age, King identified with his grandfather, an association that influenced him throughout his political life. King studied economics and law at the University of Toronto also, the University of Chicago. After graduating with an M.A. in 1897, he pursued his studies at Harvard. In 1900, he entered the civil service and became Deputy Minister of the new Department of Labour. King joined the Liberal party and won a seat in the 1908 election. The following year he was chosen Minister of Labour in Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier's Cabinet. After he lost his seat in the 1911 election, King worked as a labour advisor for the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States. He ran and lost again in the 1917 election. "Parliament will decide, he liked to say when pressed to act". Unlike most English-speaking Liberals, he stood by Laurier in opposition to conscription. (sources)

In 1919, King was elected leader of the Liberal party in the first leadership convention held in Canada. The party was still unpleasantly divided, with some Liberals in the Union government and some in Opposition. King stood on conscription two years before it won him the loyalty of Quebec. Furthermore his skills as a conciliator were well developed by his labour experience and he put them to good use rebuilding the party. The Liberals won the 1921 election.

The arguable issue of King's first expression of office was tariffs and freight rates. King reduced them, but not enough to satisfy the prairie farmers, who gave their support to the Progressives, a new political party formed to represent their interests. After the 1925 election, King could continue his best part only with their support. The Liberals lost their vote of assurance the following year. The Governor General refused King's request to separate Parliament and called on Arthur Meighen, Leader of the Opposition to form the government. This lasted only four days, until King called for a vote on the constitutional right of Meighen to govern. The Conservatives lost the vote and an election was called. (source)

Although a recently - uncovered outrage involving the Liberal Minister of Customs, King and his party won the 1926 election. He took advantage of the success of the late 1920s to reduce the war debt and to introduce an old-age pension system. Although the Liberals lost the 1930 election, it was to their benefit in the long

run. The worst years of the Depression were related with the Conservatives. The Liberals were reinstated in government in 1935.

King led the nation through the Second World War, during which Canada contribute food supplies, financial aid, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, ships, aircraft, tanks and over a million Canadian troops to the Allied cause. The close friendship of King with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President F.D. Roosevelt was one of the cornerstones of the Allied effort. One of the secrets of King's success as a leader was his ability to be familiar with the talents of his party members. He filled his Cabinet with really capable men and delegate to them the power to carry out their tasks. National unity was King's most important goal. He acknowledged that this didn't mean forcing all Canadians to support one single vision, but accepting a huge number of differing, and sometimes conflicting, views. It was this understanding and his ability to cooperate that allowed King to successfully agree to the issue of conscription in 1944 and to avoid the divisiveness of 1917.

As a part of Kings ethics on social reform, King's unemployment insurance in 1940 and family allowance in 1944. Maybe the most important sign of Kings success as prime minister is the fact that upon his retirement in 1948, his successor, Louis St. Laurent, won an election the following year and kept the Liberals in power for another eight years. Politics had been Kings life and a strenuous one at that; he died in 1950, less than two years after retiring.

The Greatest Prime Minister of Canada was William Lyon Mackenzie King. As Prime Ministers of Canada he did a lot for a country and our people. King kept his word on a lot of issues that his people were waiting on to be brought up. Mackenzie King was a strong leader to most people. King had a lot of goals in his life one important one being National unity King understood and agreed to the whole conscription idea. As a Prime Minister of Canada it is a great task to make Canada a better place to live and also a well-reserved environment. There are now 20 Prime Ministers of Canada and all that has been accomplished by William Lyon Mackenzie King far out ways any other Prime Minister. He was the greatest Prime Minister of Canada.