

Ronald Halpin

Canadian Ambassador Ronald Halpin is a descendant of fur trader Henry Halpin and his Métis wife Flora Isabelle Leask. Flora was born in 1875 at St. Andrews, the daughter of William Leask (English-Metis, b. 1839)¹ and Fanny Cochrane (English-Metis). They were married on February 1, 1904.

Ronald is a Canadian diplomat. He is currently Canada's ambassador to Hungary. He has also served as ambassador to Slovakia. Halpin earned a Bachelor of Arts, Honours, Honours at the royal Military College of Canada in 1971. He served a number of years of military service, including peacekeeper duties in Cyprus. He suffered a severe stroke on November 14, 2003, while he was Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. He lives in Ottawa.

Employment:

- 1975 – Present: Foreign Affairs Officer, Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs. Throughout his career, he specialized on Central, East and South European affairs.
- 2003-2005: Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary with concurrent accreditation to Slovenia.
- 2000-2007: Director General of the Central, East and South Europe Bureau.
- 1997-2000: Ambassador to the Czech Republic.
- 1995-1997: Director General, Resource Planning and Management Bureau.
- 1992-1995: Senior Advisor for Security and Counterterrorism.

He has served as a foreign affairs officer in Canadian embassies in Pretoria, Moscow and Warsaw. He also served as a foreign affairs officer in External Affairs Headquarters, Political and Strategic Analysis Division, the USSR and Eastern Europe Relations Division and the Personnel Division. Mr. Halpin is married to Françoise Halpin (née Lacasse) and they have two children.

Ronald's grandfather Henry Halpin has been remembered in the book *Adventures in the West: Henry Halpin, Fur Trader and Indian Agent* by David Elliott [Ed.] (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2008). Henry worked for the HBC and was captured by the Cree in the 1885 Rebellion where he served as a secretary and negotiator for Big Bear during the siege of Fort Pitt. Subsequently the Canadian government hired him as an Indian Agent due to his Cree language skills and diplomatic ability as well as his good relationships with Aboriginal people. In 1886 at age 31 Halpin married Annie Mariah Douglas Elliott. He served at Cote, Muscowpetung Shoal River and Moose Mountain Reserves. In fact Dr. Mandelbaum from UCLA met him at Moose Mountain when he was doing his studies of the Plains Cree. He left the department in 1901 around the time his wife Annie had died and in 1903 rejoined the HBC as a clerk at Fort Alexander, Manitoba. It was in 1904 that he married his English-Metis housekeeper Flora Isabella Leask (1875-1972). They had four children, adding to Henry's the eight children from his earlier marriage to Annie Elliot in 1886.

¹ The son of Hugh Leask and Mary Cook.



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OFFICE OF THE
Indian Commissioner,
NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES



Regina, 17 May 1889

*Respectfully recommended
for favourable consideration
May 21/89*

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter

inform you that Mr. H. R. Halpin,
Agency Clerk at Muscowpetung,
has made application to be appointed
to his position by order in Council.
Since Mr. Halpin has proved himself
to be faithful and efficient in his
duties, the Commissioner desires to
recommend his request to the
favourable consideration of the
Department.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your obedient servant
W. M. M. M.
Asst. Commissioner

*Approved
of
22.6.89*

The Honourable
The Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs
Ottawa
Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 3808, file 53,584)