

MOMENT IN TIME

Kim Campbell takes office as Canada's first female PM



TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

June 25, 1993 On the day she became the country's first female prime minister, Kim Campbell wanted to project an image of austerity. The Canadian economy was sputtering, and if more than 11 per cent of the labour force was unemployed, she would put some ministers out of work, too. Only 24 were appointed, one of the smallest cabinets Ottawa had seen in decades, and government departments were combined, restructured or eliminated. The theme continued to her swearing-in at Rideau Hall. Politicians took taxis, not limos, and deputy prime minister Jean Charest and his family arrived on foot. Inexpensive wine was served. At Campbell's first Parliament Hill social function, guests were even charged a \$5 cover. Four months later, she, too, would be cut, as the Progressive Conservatives lost the election in a historic rout.

— Chris Hannay

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