

Born in Ottawa and a graduate of both the University of Toronto and Oxford, Bob Rae was first elected to the Parliament of Canada as the Member of Parliament for Broadview in a by-election in October, 1978. He was re-elected in 1979 and 1980, and resigned his seat in 1982 when elected Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the riding of York South in 1982, and re-elected in 1985, 1987, 1990, and 1995. After more than a decade as a partner at Goodmans LLP Bob returned to federal politics as the MP for Toronto Centre in 2008, first in a by-election and then in general elections in that year and 2011. Bob resigned his seat in 2013 to become senior partner at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP, where he works with First Nations as legal counsel, advisor, and negotiator.

Bob served as Ontario's 21st Premier from 1990 to 1995 and Interim Federal Leader of the Liberal Party in 2011- 2013. He was named Queen's Counsel in 1984, appointed to the Privy Council of Canada in 1998, named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000, received the Order of Ontario in 2004 and Companion of the Order of Canada in 2015. In October, 2017 Bob was appointed as Special Envoy to Myanmar by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

In addition to his legal practice, Bob teaches at the University of Toronto as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the School of Public Policy and Governance (SPPG), and as Distinguished Professor at Victoria College. He is a Fellow at the Forum of Federations, and consults internationally on governance issues. He has also written five books and two major reports, on the Air India bombing and higher education in Ontario. He writes and speaks regularly on public issues and also does ADR work with ADR Chambers.