

**Senator Sharon Carstairs** was appointed Leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba in 1984, and elected to the Legislative Assembly in Manitoba in 1986. In 1988, she led the Liberal Party in Manitoba and became the first woman to lead the Official Opposition in a Canadian Legislative Assembly. She joined the Senate in 1994. From 1997-1999 she was the first woman to be Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate. She served as Federal Cabinet Minister from 2001-2003 as Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister with Special Responsibility for Palliative Care. Sharon has served as a member and as Chair of various Senate Committees, including two which examined issues of hospice palliative care and the Special Senate Committee on Aging. She released two special reports on palliative in Canada, one in 2005 and the most recent one in June 2010 on the state of palliative care in Canada, titled *Raising the Bar*.