

Horst A. Schmid -- 1933-2026

The Honorable Horst Adolph Louis Charles Schmid ECA passed away the evening of Saturday, April 4, 2026. He was ninety-two.

Born April 29, 1933 in Munich, Bavaria, he emigrated to Canada in 1952 and worked in the gold mines in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. After moving to Edmonton in 1956, he performed many roles and services (among them CKUA radio host; taxi driver; insurance agent; international import/export; co-owner of the Hofbräuhaus; founder of (and dancer in) the Bavarian Schuhplattlers of Edmonton), culminating -- in 1971 -- being elected in Edmonton Avonmore as part of Peter Lougheed's Progressive Conservatives' win over Harry Strom's Social Credit government. Mr. Lougheed named Mr. Schmid Minister of Culture, Youth, and Recreation, a cabinet position that was fundamental in countless initiatives, enthusiasms, and tangible, robust support throughout the province (the creation of the Heritage Day holiday and ensuing Heritage Festivals and Folk Festivals being but a few examples). Other, subsequent government positions included: Government Services; Economic Development and International Trade; Tourism; and Commissioner General for Trade and Tourism.



Horst's fondness and appreciations for Alberta and for Canada were best described in his thoughtful "May I Ask You" speech given in Winnipeg in 1978 (<https://tinyurl.com/fud9z838>). Among his proudest days was when he was made honorary Chief Flying Eagle.

He is predeceased by his wife (Arleen Dale Maria), a son (Bernard Charles Claudius), two brothers (Stefan and Siegfried), and dozens of good, close friends of many decades (not least Stefanie (Steffi) Diepold).

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be made to one's favourite museum, arts-related foundation, and/or cultural association.



[This announcement can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/4ufjd5rt> .]