

**VESSEY, ROBERT STUART**, farmer; b. 27 November 1961 in Charlottetown, son of William Stuart Vessey and Marion Thelma Andrews; m. 19 April 2003 Tracey Lynn Poirier, and they have two children, step-son Marc Alexander Thibideau and Danica Leigh; United.

Vessey, a Liberal, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 28 May 2007 general election for District 9 York-Oyster Bed. He was re-elected on 3 October 2011. He has served as Government House Leader, and as chair of the legislative review committee, the committee on committees and the operations committee. He has also served as a member of committees dealing with legislative management, agriculture, environment, energy, forestry, privileges, rules, private bills, Public Accounts and the Constitution of Canada. On 13 January 2010, Vessey was appointed Minister of Tourism and Culture, and on 18 October 2011 he was appointed Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Prior to his time in the House, he served as District 9 president from 1997 to 2000, then vice-president of the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island. Vessey ran unsuccessfully in the 2003 general election. Vessey was offered the chief of staff position for the Liberal Government allowing for an open seat in District 9, York-Oyster Bed, should there have been an election called. Vessey did not reoffer in the spring 2015 general election.

Vessey received his education at York and Stonepark schools before graduating from Charlottetown Rural High School in 1980. A fifth-generation potato farmer, he owned and managed Vessey Produce, a multiple-prize-winning company of international competitions at the Royal Winter Fair for seed and tablestock entries.

He has worked on a number of volunteer and charity events in his community, alongside his work on agricultural-related boards, such as the Producers Yield Club and Club 500. A fan of amateur sports, he has coached 10 Canadian Senior Men's Fastball Championships and soccer in Sherwood and has been a member of Squash PEI. Vessey is a member of the York United Church. In September 2013, Vessey was chosen as a recipient of the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Citizen of Distinction award.

Vessey lives in York with his family. Tracey Vessey is the daughter of Cyrice Poirier and Norma DeMeester of Cornwall.

#### **References**

CBC 29 March 2012, 23 November 2012, 9 May 2014; Elections PEI; *The Guardian* 2 October 2012; Questionnaire to Former MLAs; *Royal Gazette* 29 October 2011, 19 July 2008.