

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie

What's in her closet?

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If you ever happen to see Mayor Bonnie Crombie in jeans or capris—snap a photo because that would be a rare sight indeed. Instead, an exclusive look inside the Mayor's walk-in closet reveals a sea of business attire, including her signature look, knee-length Jackie O style sheath dresses and jacket ensembles.

"I always look like the Mayor," smiles Her Worship Bonnie Crombie. "How I present myself is part of my image and my brand. I would describe my style as classic, elegant, traditional and timeless—my hemline is always at the knee. I almost always wear a blazer. When I was in the House of Commons, wearing a blazer and having your arms covered was part of the dress code."

First impressions count for the high profile Mayor who is routinely recognised while shopping in Mississauga.

The Mayor holds up a bright lemon yellow shift dress. "I would wear something like this yellow shift dress to the grocery store, with a pair of sandals," explains Mayor Crombie. "I like classic, clean lines. I rarely wear jeans or capris—I don't really wear casual clothes. People recognize me in the grocery store and often say, oh, you are that woman!"

"That woman" is the action-oriented Mayor who names former First-Lady Jackie O as her style icon and wears clothes with the aplomb of a runway model. In fact, the Mayor modelled during her teenage years. She also runs 5K a few times a week and plays golf to maintain her svelte figure.

Her favourite clothing colours—power red and bold cobalt blue—reflect her outgoing personality. Many of her go-to suits and dresses are in her favourite colours, along

with plenty of business black, the occasional white or cream dress, a few print blouses to add a pop of pattern, and a plethora of eveningwear befitting her busy lifestyle.

Ironically the first dollar she earned was at a department store.

"I worked at Woolworth's, then Thrifty's (clothing) and also Bowrings," says the Mayor. "I often had several jobs at a time. During my undergraduate years I worked as a flight attendant for Air Canada and did a lot of travelling to Europe."

Mayor Crombie speaks four languages: English, French, Polish and Ukrainian. She is a former Liberal Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Streetsville and was elected to Mississauga City Council in 2011. Prior to seeking elected office, Crombie worked in marketing for the Walt Disney Corporation and McDonald's. She holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business and a Corporate Director's Certificate from the International Institute of Corporate Directors at the Rotman School of Business.

When asked to name some of her favourite Canadian designers, Mayor Crombie replies: "I love David Dixon, Judith and Charles, Marie Saint Pierre—who is Sophie Trudeau's designer, Freda and Joseph Ribkoff."

The Mayor models a stunning Judith and Charles dress in her signature red, and in her hand she holds her favourite red scarf; a treasured gift from her husband Brian.

"This is the dress I wore when I welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his first official visit to Mississauga City Hall in February," states the Mayor.

Looking equally polished and Mayor-like, Bonnie Crombie

right Mayor Crombie wears dress in red—her signature colour, designed by Judith and Charles; accented by a red print scarf which was a gift from her husband Brian.





clockwise from top left 1.LBD designed for the Mayor by Mississauga-based fashion designer David Dixon which she wore at her inauguration 2. Jackie-O inspired pale pink, black and cream dress and jacket for the office. 3. Chic, yet comfortable travel outfit including Banana Republic capris borrowed from daughter Natasha's closet, a white tank and a stunning coat by Canadian designer Marie Saint Pierre 4.Gorgeous hot pink Dinesh Ramsay Sari; a favourite from her sari collection.

models a favourite black dress and jacket. It's the same one she wore for her official photo.

"I wore a cobalt blue David Dixon outfit on election night," states Mayor Crombie. "The Freda cobalt blue coat and dress outfit I wore in Brazil during the 2015 Economic Development Office investment mission to close the deal with BioLab, a global pharmaceutical company which chose Mississauga as home for its new research and development company. It's a \$56 million investment that will create 40 high paying jobs in R&D, adding more than \$45,000 annually to the tax base. I also wore it on my first appearance of CBC Power & Politics and during my Federation of Canadian Municipalities with other Big City Mayor's Conference."

The Mayor attends hundreds of special events and celebrations every year and is prepared to be perfectly dressed for every occasion. During the South Asian festival of Diwali, Mayor Crombie chose to wear a stunning hot pink Dinesh Ramsay sari, one of many beautiful saris from her growing collection.

Again, the Mayor pulls out all of the stops when she appears in a jaw-droppingly gorgeous short black cocktail dress custom designed for her by Mississauga-based fashion designer David Dixon. "I wore this dress at my inauguration as well as when I was honoured during the 31st Annual Community Living Tribute Dinner in 2015 which raised over \$200,000, a record-setting amount," says Mayor Crombie with pride. "Funds generated from this event benefit Community Living Mississauga's summer programs for children and teens."

In her closet the Mayor has a noteworthy collection of shoes and bags to complement every outfit. Although high heels are the norm for eveningwear, long hours on her feet calls for more practical footwear.

"I have had some issues with my feet, so I choose higher quality shoes since turning 50," admits the Mayor.

One other confession—she's a fan of high/low shopping. You may have a Mayor Bonnie sighting at Winners or an outlet mall. "I shop off season for Hugo Boss on sale," says the style-savvy Mayor. She dashes into her closet and returns holding a vivid green dress. "This is a Pink Tartan dress that I got for \$99. I wore it on St. Patrick's Day."

The Mayor adopts her "keep it simple" attitude when it comes to her travel wardrobe. Still no jeans allowed. In fact, for her travel outfit, she rifled through her daughter Natasha's closet and came up with a pair of capris from Banana Republic, which she wore with her own white tank top and a long Marie Saint Pierre coat; the perfect icing on the cake to dress up her travel look. The Mayor in capris? Don't worry—we have the photos to prove it! ❹



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above Posing in her home office, Mayor Crombie wears cobalt blue—one of her favourite colours—in a dress and matching knee-length coat by Freda's in Toronto