



Canada's 42nd general election was held on October 19. The outcome of this vote surprised many observers.

After a 78-day campaign, the Liberal Party won. Its leader, Justin Trudeau, will become the nation's 23rd prime minister on November 4.

THE LIBERALS' NIGHT

The Liberals won 184 out of 338 seats across the country. That means the party's **Members of Parliament (MPs)** will form a **majority government**.

The victory was remarkable because the Liberals held just 36 seats when the election was called. No party in Canada's history has seen such an increase in a single election.

Momentum began building on election day in Atlantic Canada where the party won *all* 32 seats. It then won 40 seats in Quebec, 80 in Ontario and 12 in the prairie provinces. Seventeen Liberals were elected in British Columbia.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

For the Conservative and NDP parties, this election was a giant step backwards.

The Conservative Party has governed the country for the past 10 years under Prime Minister Stephen Harper. It won just 99 seats. That's far fewer than the 167-seat majority it won in the 2011 election.

In the wake of this crushing loss, Mr. Harper plans to step down

as party leader. However, he will keep his seat in the **House of Commons** representing the riding of Calgary Heritage.

"We gave everything we had to give and we have no regrets whatsoever," he told his followers after the election. "Friends, how could we? We remain citizens of the best country on Earth."

The New Democratic Party (NDP) is led by Tom Mulcair. Before the election, it formed the **Official Opposition** in the House of Commons with 95 MPs. This time, just 44 NDP members won a seat.

The **Bloc Québécois (BQ)**, on the other hand, gained some ground. It won 10 seats – six more than in the last election.

DEFINITIONS

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS: political party created in 1993 to fight for independence for Quebec

HOUSE OF COMMONS: where Members of Parliament meet in Ottawa to conduct business

MAJORITY GOVERNMENT: a government that holds the majority of seats in the House of Commons. A majority government is generally more productive than a minority government because the consent of other parties is not required for a bill to pass.

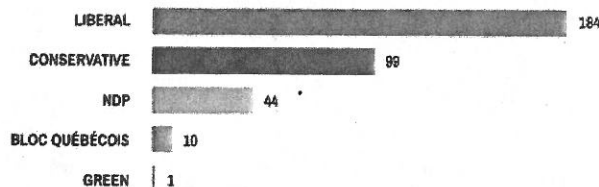
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT: Canada's federally elected representatives

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: the party with the second-most MPs in the House of Commons that publicly questions and critiques the party in power

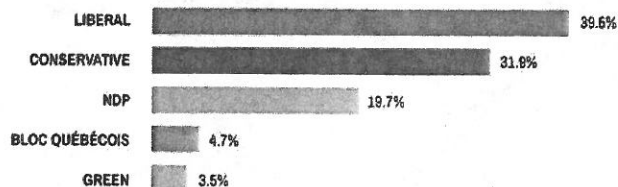


LIBERALS TRIUMPH IN FEDERAL ELECTION

2015 SEATS



2015 VOTES



Green Party leader Elizabeth May was re-elected too. She was the only one in her party to win a seat.

BREAKING AWAY

At first, the race was tight. Each of the three major parties rose to the top at one time or another.

However, in early October, the Liberals broke away from the pack. The long campaign gave Mr. Trudeau a chance to let Canadians get to know him. The 43-year-old former high-school teacher was able to show that he wasn't too inexperienced to lead the nation.

Mr. Trudeau called for modest **deficits** in the next three federal budgets. They will pay for improving the **infrastructure** of Canada's cities. He also vowed to cut income taxes for middle-class Canadians and to increase taxes on the wealthiest. Some people believe that was the

promise that set his party apart from the others.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 68 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot in this election. That's the best turnout in over 20 years. It's also seven percent higher than in 2011.

THE WORK BEGINS

The day after the election, Mr. Trudeau spoke to U.S. President Barack Obama about ending Canada's combat role in the air war against the **Islamic State**. He also talked to Mr. Obama about the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This 12-country trade deal could mean major changes for the country's farmers, auto workers and the digital economy.

In November, Mr. Trudeau plans to attend the United Nations climate summit in Paris.

"Canada's years of being a less-than-enthusiastic actor on the climate change file are behind us," he declared.

Two other big items on his to-do list? The price of oil, one of our most important exports, has dropped sharply, stalling economic growth. He'll have to come up with a plan to get the economy going again. He has also pledged to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by year's end.

AN OPTIMISTIC LEADER

Mr. Trudeau says he can't wait to get down to work.

"Canadians have spoken," he declared in his victory speech. "You want a government with a vision, and an agenda... that is positive, and ambitious, and hopeful. I promise you... that I will make that vision a reality." ★

DEFINITIONS

DEFICIT: an excess of expenses over income

INFRASTRUCTURE: the basic equipment and structures (such as roads and bridges) that are needed for a country, region, or organization to function properly

ISLAMIC STATE: a radical militant group that has seized land in eastern Syria and across northern and western Iraq

GREEN PARTY: political party founded in 1983 that values ecological wisdom, social justice, grassroots democracy and non-violence