



Pierre Trudeau



Joe Clark



Ed Broadbent

and Prime Minister Trudeau called an election for July. The Liberals campaigned on their record. The Conservatives presented an economic program that called for strict wage and price controls to fight inflation. The Liberals, who opposed wage and price controls, won a comfortable majority, and the NDP lost its role in the balance of power. David Lewis lost his seat and later resigned as NDP leader, while Robert Stanfield resigned as Conservative leader in 1976. Their successors, Ed Broadbent and Joe Clark were elected at the next party leadership conventions.

By-elections are held whenever a parliamentary seat becomes vacant. Last year Prime Minister Trudeau called fifteen of them for October 16. The Conservatives won ten seats (a gain of four); the NDP, two (a gain of one); the Liberals, two (a loss of five); and the Social Credit party, one.

"There are those people who say that my quarrel with the premier of Quebec is too personalized. . . . Well, isn't this a personal issue for all of you over the unity of this country? Pourquoi? Is there anyone in this party, anyone in this country who isn't prepared to fight back when he sees somebody who sets out deliberately, overtly to destroy the country? Is there anything wrong with having a personal feeling about that?"

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, 1978

"As I look at the problems of national unity in more than the momentary context, I see them not so much now and in the decade ahead of us as a matter of language policy, as important as that is, but rather national unity in the next decade will depend on the capacity of all regions and all the people of this country to participate in the benefits of economic growth."

Joe Clark, Progressive-Conservative leader, 1976

"It is right in principle that French-speaking people and English-speaking Canadians ought to have basically, in terms of their linguistic right, equality, and I think any Canadian politician who realizes the history of our country and the rights of our two principal cultural groups has to support that, ought to support it, but it is not a source of union. It is a source of tension."

Ed Broadbent, New Democratic Party leader, 1977