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Canadians re-elect Trudeau government with majority

The Liberal Party of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau was returned to office in the federal general election on July 8. The Liberal Government, which had been in a minority position since the election of October 1972, won 141 seats this time — a gain of 32 over the number they held at dissolution — to give them a working majority, only the third in the last eight Canadian elections.

The Prime Minister's party won most of its seats in Ontario — 55 out of 88 — increased its strength in Quebec by winning four Social Credit seats, captured some in the Atlantic provinces and made a net gain of four in British Columbia, increasing to eight the number of seats held there.

The standings on July 9 were: Liberals 141, Progressive Conservatives 95, New Democrats 16, Social Credit 11 and 1 Independent, for a total of 264. At dissolution the Liberals had held 109, the Conservatives 106, the New Democrats 31, Social Credit 15, Independent 1; and two vacant seats.

Defeat of NDP Leader Lewis

David Lewis, who has worked for the New Democratic Party and its predecessor the CCF for almost 40 years, its Leader since 1971, was defeated in his home riding of York South, Metropolitan Toronto, by Liberal candidate Ursula Appoloni, whose husband had been beaten by Mr. Lewis in the 1972 election. Said Mr. Lewis: "I'm naturally disappointed — no one can help feeling disappointed...I want to wish Madame Appoloni well — I congratulate her on her victory...." The

New Democratic Party suffered its greatest defeat in the election, losing 15 of its 31 seats held in the last Parliament. Mr. Lewis said later that he would probably step down as its Leader.

The only Cabinet Minister not re-elected was Environment Minister Jack Davis. Paul Hellyer, a former Liberal Cabinet Minister, a Conservative in the last Parliament, lost his seat, as did Thomas Bell, House Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

The issues

The July 8 election, brought on by the defeat of the Liberal Government in May when the budget was introduced, was fought mainly on the issue of inflation.

Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield had advocated in his campaign the imposition of controls on wages and prices to halt the rising cost of living. Mr. Trudeau claimed that such a measure would not be successful as inflation was an international problem. Wage and price control, the question of leadership and NDP voters who switched affiliation to the Liberals, were the reasons given by some for the Liberal Party victory.

The Minister of Finance, John Turner, stated that a modified budget would be reintroduced in the next Parliament.

"The budget will be brought in as before," he said, with two qualifications: "subject to the economic conditions of the time; and subject to seeing what we can do to ease the conflict between Ottawa and the provinces over resources."

Federal general election — party standings province by province

	Total	Nfld	PEI	NS	NB	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	BC	Yukon
Liberal	141	4	1	2	6	59	55	2	3	0	8	0
Conservative	95	3	3	8	3	3	25	9	8	19	13	1
New Democrat	16	0	0	1	0	0	8	2	2	0	2	1
Social Credit	11	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Independent	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	264	7	4	11	10	74	88	13	13	19	23	2