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Liberals win majority government in sweep of East

The Liberal Party and Pierre Trudeau swept back into power with a majority government February 18, ending the nine-month rule of Prime Minister Joe Clark's Progressive Conservatives. Mr. Clark's government served the shortest term of any elected administration in Canadian history.

Despite the winter weather, a large number of voters cast their ballots to choose 281 members of Parliament from a record number of 1,489 candidates. (The House of Commons consists of 282 seats but the Quebec seat of Frontenac will not be contested until March 24 because of the recent death of the Social Credit candidate.)

The Liberals won 146 seats, the Conservatives 103, while the New Democratic Party accounted for 32. At dissolution of Parliament in December, the Conservatives held 136 seats, the Liberals 114, the NDP 27 and the Social Credit five. A total of 142 seats is needed for a majority.

Popular vote

The Liberals received 44 per cent of the popular vote compared with 33 per cent

for Conservatives and 20 per cent for the NDP. That represented a gain of 4 percentage points for the Liberals, 2 points for the NDP and a loss of 3 percentage points for the Conservatives compared with the 1979 results.

The election signalled the total disintegration of the Social Credit Party in Parliament. All five Socred members of Parliament were defeated, including party leader Fabien Roy who was not re-elected in his riding of Beauce, Quebec. The party's share of the popular vote dropped to 2 per cent from 5 per cent in the last election. The Social Credit vote tumbled sharply in Quebec from about 16 per cent to less than 2 per cent.

Four Conservative Cabinet ministers were not re-elected. They are: Secretary of State for Communications David MacDonald, Science and Technology Minister Heward Grafftey, Trade Minister Robert René de Cotret and Immigration Minister Ronald Atkey.

Two former Liberal ministers defeated in the election last May — Dan MacDonald, former minister of Veterans Affairs and Bud Cullen, former minister of Employ-



"Welcome to the 1980s," Prime Minister-elect Trudeau told supporters.

Thirteen years ago today... His Excellency, the Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, Governor General of Canada, died in Ottawa, at the age of 78.