

Canada Elects a New Government



Governor-General Jeanne Sauvé with Members of the Cabinet following the Swearing-in Ceremony at Rideau Hall.

On September 4, the Canadian electorate voted in a new government under the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney. Mr. Mulroney led his Progressive Conservative Party to a sweeping victory by capturing the largest number of seats in the House of Commons in Canadian history, 211 out of a total 282.

Conservative candidates were elected in all ten provinces as well as in the two territories. In terms of popular vote, the Conservatives obtained the support of just under 50% of the electorate. The Liberal Party under outgoing Prime Minister John Turner returned 40 Members of Parliament. Canada's third major party, the New Democrats, won in 30 ridings.

The Cabinet consisting of 39 ministers in addition to Mr. Mulroney, was sworn in on September 17 in a ceremony presided over by Her Excellency the Governor General, Mme Jeanne Sauvé at Rideau Hall. Besides having representatives from all provinces, the Cabinet also has the largest number of women in history—6. Three ministers will share the responsibility for managing Canada's foreign relations. Former Prime Minister, Joe Clark, will serve as Secretary of State for External Affairs, with James Killefer as International Trade Minister and Monique Vézina as External Relations Minister. The first session of Canada's

thirty-third Parliament opened on November 5.

The Prime Minister

Born March 20, 1939 in Baie Comeau, Quebec, Mr. Mulroney is a lawyer and former corporate executive.

He holds a B.A. (Honours) in Political Science from St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia and a Bachelor of Law from Laval University, Quebec City.

On June 11, 1983, Mr. Mulroney was elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

He subsequently won election to the House of Commons in a by-election on August 29, 1983 in the riding of Central Nova, Nova Scotia and was returned in the riding of Manicouagan, Quebec in the General Election of 1984.

Mr. Mulroney has been active in public life and community affairs for many years. In May, 1974, he was appointed to the Cliche Royal Commission investigating violence in the Quebec construction industry. In 1976, he was a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

Later that year, he joined the Iron Ore Company of Canada as executive vice-president; a year later, he became company president.

He has been active in charitable organi-

zations such as the United Way of Greater Montreal, the Quebec Association for the Mentally Retarded and the Canadian Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Fund.

Mr. Mulroney is married to the former Mila Pivnicki; they have three children.



A jubilant Brian and Mila Mulroney.