



Bulletin

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MINORITY GOVERNMENT FOR CANADA

As a result of the general election on October 30, Canada will have a minority government when Members return to the House of Commons early in December.

Both major parties, Mr. Trudeau's Liberals and Mr. Stanfield's Progressive Conservatives, elected 109 candidates in a draw that was not certain until four days after the election.

A recount of the ballots in the riding of Drummond, Quebec, reversed a Social Credit victory to a win for Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, thereby tying the number of seats won by each major party. Other recounts are in process.

On November 3 the party standings were: Progressive Conservatives, 109, Liberals, 109, New Democrats, 30, Social Credit members, 14 and Independents, 2. At the dissolution of Parliament in September, the standings were: Liberals, 147, Conservatives 73, New Democrats 25, Social Credit 13, Independents 2, with four vacant seats, for a total of 264.

Three Cabinet Ministers – H.A. Olson (Agriculture), Martin O'Connell (Labour) and Patrick Mahoney (Minister of State without portfolio) – lost their seats. A former member of the Liberal Cabinet, Paul Hellyer, who had held the portfolios of Defence and Transport in the Pearson and Trudeau Governments respectively, won a Conservative seat in Toronto. Allan Lawrence, who had resigned as Ontario Minister of Justice to run in a federal riding, also won a seat for the Progressive Conservatives.

The largest gains for the Progressive Conservatives were in Ontario and British Columbia. The PCs, who had held only 19 seats in Ontario, carried 41 of the province's 81 ridings. In B.C. they doubled their strength from four to eight seats. Alberta elected a solid slate of 19 Conservatives – not a single seat going to another party. Quebec, on the other hand, elected only two PCs – against 57 Liberals, 14 Social Credit and a single Independent.

A total of 9,554,035 Canadians cast their ballot on October 30, 74 per cent of the eligible 12,909,179. Prince Edward Island led all the provinces, with an 83 percent (56,349 out of 68,018), turnout.

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STATEMENT BY MR. TRUDEAU

At a press conference in Ottawa on November 2, the Prime Minister made the following statement:

"At the beginning of the election campaign, I said that we were anxious to talk to the people of Canada and to listen to what they had to say. The ballots cast on Monday reflected the view of a good many Canadians that the Government in the past four and a half years was not satisfactory. Observers have not been able to identify with certainty any single issue, or indeed any package of issues, which led to that result.

"That vote has conveyed to me and to my colleagues, better than any other mechanism could do, that there have been failures. What the vote has not done, however, is to express any clear degree of approval for any single party.

"The business of governing must continue