

# Canada Weekly

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## Late news

Conservative leader Brian Mulroney will be sworn in as Canada's eighteenth prime minister on Monday, September 17. The new Cabinet will be sworn in at the same time.

## Canada elects new government in landslide win for Conservatives

Brian Mulroney led the Progressive Conservative Party to its largest majority in Canadian history in the federal general election on September 4.

The sweep, which more than doubled the total number of seats the party held after the 1980 election, beat the previous record of 208 seats won in the 1958 election led by John Diefenbaker.

Claiming victory in 211 of the country's 282 seats, the Conservatives have changed the political face of the country.

When Liberal leader John Turner conceded national defeat in Vancouver, the Liberals had been elected in only 40 seats, 107 fewer than in the last federal election. It represented the smallest number of seats ever won by the Liberal Party. Their previous low record was 48 seats in the 1958 election.

The New Democratic Party won 30 seats, gaining in Ontario but losing some previously held in western Canada. One independent was elected in Toronto.

### Coast to coast

The landslide began in the Atlantic provinces from where the first returns were received. There the Conservatives almost doubled their number of seats to 25, with the remaining seven going to the Liberals.

The most stunning victory for the Conservatives however, came in the Liberal fortress of Quebec, where voters turned their backs on 21 years of Liberal tradition in 61 of 75 ridings. In 1980, the Conservatives won only one seat in the province.

The avalanche continued in Ontario, where the Conservatives increased their seat total from 38 to 69. The Liberals fell from 52 to 14 and the New Democrats from 6 to 13.

In the west, the New Democrats held on to strongholds in Manitoba and Saskatchewan but every seat in Alberta went to the Conservatives. The Conservatives claimed 19 victories in British Columbia and the New Democrats won in eight ridings. For the Liberals, there were only two



Lynn Ball, The Citizen

Brian Mulroney, the prime minister elect, and wife Mila, acknowledge cheers from supporters in Baie Comeau.

victories in the west, one in Manitoba and the other in the Vancouver riding where John Turner was elected.

### Leaders elected

All three party leaders won in their ridings. Brian Mulroney swept Manicouagan, Quebec by more than 20 000 votes over his nearest rival, Liberal incumbent André Maltais. For New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent in Oshawa, Ontario, the margin of victory was only some 2 200 votes. John Turner was also in a close contest, beating his nearest rival, Conservative Bill Clarke in Vancouver Quadra by 3 784 votes.

Across the country many notable Progressive Conservatives were elected. Among those who will be in the House of Commons are James McGrath and John Crosbie of Newfoundland; Elmer MacKay and Robert Coates of Nova Scotia; Tom



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