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In the year following his election as party leader, Brian Mulroney travelled the country extensively, setting out his Party's policies for economic and political renewal. His commitment to the involvement of Canadians in the shaping of their own destiny led to the creation of party task forces which held public hearings on issues of national concern.

Brian Mulroney also made good his promise to involve all Canadians in the mainstream of the Progressive Conservative Party. To demonstrate his commitment, Mulroney chose to contest the parliamentary seat of Manicouagan in Quebec, an expansive 800,000-square-kilometre riding which contained his boyhood home town of Baie-Comeau.

That seat had been traditionally Liberal; in the previous general election, the Liberal incumbent has been elected with a majority of 16,000 votes.

When the Liberal Government dissolved Parliament on July 9, 1984, Brian Mulroney was ready for the election campaign. The Liberals were well ahead of the Progressive Conservatives in the opinion polls because of the election of their new leader. A few weeks into the campaign, however, there was little doubt of the outcome.

Brian Mulroney became the eighteenth Prime Minister of Canada on September 17, 1984, after the largest electoral victory in the history of the country.

The Progressive Conservative Party had won 211 of the 282 seats, including 58 seats in the province of Quebec. This number of seats from Quebec was a significant accomplishment and provided the Canadian people with a truly national government.

With the naming of the Cabinet, Prime Minister Mulroney created a team with strong representation from every region of the country. He established a Canadian political milestone by appointing six women to his Cabinet.

*"We owe it to ourselves to honour excellence and to pursue it relentlessly. Canada must, and will, stand for the best in all fields of human endeavor."*

*Prime Minister Mulroney*