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Liberals elect new leader to succeed Prime Minister Trudeau



John Turner, newly-elected leader of the Liberal party, acknowledges applause from the delegates. Mr. Turner succeeds Pierre Trudeau, becoming Canada's seventeenth prime minister.

John Turner, front-running contender in the race for the leadership of the Liberal party of Canada was elected leader at a convention held in Ottawa on June 16, 1984.

Mr. Turner, 54, succeeding Pierre Elliott Trudeau, will become Canada's seventeenth prime minister.

Only Energy Minister Jean Chrétien presented a serious challenge to Mr. Turner. After the first ballot, however, it was clear that Mr. Chrétien did not have a chance of winning. On the second ballot, Mr. Turner had a clear majority, with 1 862 of the 3 423 votes cast, while Mr. Chrétien was some 500 votes behind.

Other contenders for the leadership were Cabinet ministers Donald Johnston, John Roberts, Mark MacGuigan, John Munro and Eugene Whelan.

John Turner, who resigned as Finance Minister from Mr. Trudeau's government in 1975, has been out of politics since that time.

After being elected to the House of Commons for the Montreal riding of St. Lawrence-St. George in 1962, Mr. Turner served the Liberal government as Registrar

General, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Solicitor General and Minister of Justice. He held the most influential portfolio of Minister of Finance for more than three years before his resignation in 1975 after what is believed to have been a disagreement on policy.

Sixteen days after Prime Minister Trudeau announced his departure from politics on February 29 this year, John Turner announced his candidacy for the leadership of the Liberal party.

Background

John Napier Turner was born in Richmond, England in 1929, the son of Leonard Turner, a journalist, and Phyllis Gregory. He was three years old when his parents returned to Canada with his one-year-old sister Brenda.

Mr. Turner received his early education in Ottawa and later attended the University of British Columbia (B.A. honours in political science); was a Rhodes scholar at the University of Oxford (B.A. in jurisprudence, Bachelor of Civil Law, M.A.); and did graduate studies in French civil law at the

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