

# Election '80 - who wins what where

by Jim McElgunn and Keith Krause

Once again, the Gateway has abandoned its fear of being wrong, and asked its resident pundits to demonstrate their complete and utter lack of knowledge about the Canadian electoral system.

The past six weeks have seen endless hours and bottles of beer go by in an effort to resolve the problem of who will win the election (and by how much). The result is a set of province-by-province predictions designed to make anyone an instant authority on this election (we hope).

These predictions are based on local reports, national polls and analyses and riding-by-riding forecasts. Thus, they should be quite accurate, although the uncertainty is increased greatly in B.C. and Ontario. If that last sentence sounds like a cop-out, it is - but if you're looking for perfection you've come to the wrong place!

## Newfoundland

(7 seats: 4 Lib., 2 PC, 1 NDP)

Come hell, or John Crosbie, the Tories will not make any breakthroughs in Newfoundland. The only seats that aren't one sided (two of them) are held by the Liberals, and the general Liberal upswing in the region will allow them to retain these. James McGrath (PC) and Crosbie, as well as Fouse Faour (NDP) are all popular enough to resist the Liberal trend.

## Prince Edward Island

(4 seats: 0 Lib., 4 PC, 0 NDP)

The Tory sweep of the island last time is likely to recur. The presence of popular Secretary of State David MacDonald and the transfer of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not hurt the PCs. The only seat worth watching is Cardigan, narrowly won by Wilbur MacDonald in May.

## Nova Scotia

(11 seats: 5 Lib., 5 PC, 1 NDP)

The Conservatives are in trouble in Halifax. George Cooper's seat (which he won by only 14 votes) will go to former Liberal premier Gerald Regan. The Liberals will also pick up South West Nova and one other seat. Old-time Tories can only sigh at the glory days of 1968 (when they won all 11 seats). The lone NDP seat in Cape Breton is safe, as Father Hogan is somewhat of a folk hero. But the NDP, as in the rest of the Atlantic, will not be the big winners this time around.

## New Brunswick

(10 seats: 7 Lib., 3 PC, 0 NDP)

In New Brunswick, (not to mention the rest of the country), everyone votes along linguistic lines. The French in the north usually vote Liberal and the English in the south vote Conservative. In this election though, the Liberals' increasing strength will probably be

enough to overcome the slim Tory margin in Saint John. Otherwise, don't lose any sleep worrying about the results here.

## Quebec

(75 seats: 70 Lib., 2 PC, 3 Socred)

This year Pierre Trudeau is only slightly less popular in Quebec than Jesus Christ. Until now his only competition has been the Socreds, but though Fabien Roy will hold on to his seat, he will be lucky to have two compatriots with him in the Commons. Socreds are a dying breed everywhere. PC Roch Lasalle, probably the most uninspiring cabinet minister in years, will hold on to his as will Heward Graffety. The biggest question mark is the Socred defector to the Conservatives, Richard Janelle, who will likely suffer the same fate as Jack Horner. As for the rest of Quebec, well...there is at least one seat where the Rhinoceros party will come in second (Montreal Laurier - we're not kidding!). One should note that by winning in Quebec the Liberals are already half way to a majority. They're even more popular than the Conservatives are in Alberta - a rather sobering thought.

Pierre Trudeau may be, in for a tough fight, but his 39,000 vote margin should pull him through, as his share of the vote almost reaches 90 per cent!

## Ontario

(95 seats: 52 Lib., 38 PC, 5 NDP)

And now for something completely revolting - the place we know is the only one that really matters. The electoral situation in Ontario is a pollster nightmare, so to simplify the problem we broke it into three regions: Northern Ontario, Metro Toronto and the Rest.

Northern Ontario's 11 seats will be a Liberal-NDP battleground. The NDP will play roulette, losing two of their three seats, gaining one and finishing with two. This will leave the Liberals with nine seats.

In Metro Toronto (23 seats) many PCs are planning alternative careers. Because so many seats are close races, however, a small percentage shift on



voting day could save some of them. Of the 12 seats the Tories presently hold, they will be lucky to retain four as the born-again Liberals capture an impressive 18 ridings.

Bob Rae, NDP finance critic, will once again be the lone NDP representative in Toronto.

Despite what the rest of the media may have you believe, the real battle for Ontario is not in Toronto, but in the 61 seats scattered from Windsor to Ottawa (unofficially known as the Rest). Last time the Tories swept 45 of these ridings, assuring their election victory. This time, it isn't going to work quite that way.

General dissatisfaction, especially with Tory energy policy (there are a lot of gas pumps in Ontario) will cost the Conservatives about 11 seats. This leaves the Liberals with 25, giving them 52 seats in Ontario. Meanwhile, the only safe seat for the NDP is Ed Broadbent's, providing he shows up there at least once during the campaign.

## Manitoba

(14 seats: 2 Lib., 6 PC, 6 NDP)

Liberal gains in the West are not going to translate into more seats in Manitoba. Instead, there will be close races between the Tories and the NDP, with the NDP stealing two Tory seats and the Tories stealing one back (by promising to attract a helicopter factory to Dauphin). The rest of the province's seats should remain unchanged though, especially since the Conservatives have conveniently sent Sterling Lyon on an extended vacation to Florida.

## Saskatchewan

(14 seats: 0 Lib., 8 PC, 6 NDP)

This province is a bit confusing. The NDP is worried about a backlash over the provincial civil service strike, the Tories are worried about their tax on diesel fuel and the Liberals are worried because nobody likes them. Meanwhile, a Rhino tried to run his dog in Saskatoon West, but failed because the potential candidate could not sign his nomination form.

Half the provinces' riding are tight races, but look for the NDP to come out the winners due to PC-Liberal vote splits.

John Diefenbaker's former riding of Prince Albert seems destined to revert to the Tory hordes. This will be more than offset by NDP victories in rural ridings.

The Liberals have an outside chance in two ridings, but all bets are off here!

## Alberta

(21 seats: 0 Lib., 21 PC, 0 NDP)

Hey...what can we say? Political pundits (us) just love Alberta, even though its politics, shall we say, suck.

All seats will go Tory, although their share of the popular vote will fall. Slightly less than ridiculous majorities will be registered in Athabasca and Edmonton West, but the remainder will be as predictable as ever.

## British Columbia

(28 seats: 1 Lib., 16 pc, 11 NDP)

And you thought Saskatchewan was crazy...

The NDP will perform the amazing feat of picking up three new seats, while not gaining any more support. In the center ring, Liberals will somehow manage to climb to about 30 points in the polls without winning any more seats. And out in right field, the PCs will keep winning most of the seats, despite a dramatic drop in their popularity.

Liberal Art Phillips will lose his seat in Vancouver Centre, finishing third in a very tight race. The Tories will lose two seats in the Kootenays to the NDP and one in Vancouver to Gordon Gibson, who is likely to become the lone Liberal west of Winnipeg.

The main beneficiary of most of the tight races will be the NDP, who will increase to 11 seats.

## The North

(3 seats: 0 Lib., 2 PC, 1 NDP)

No one will show up to vote up North, because it will be too bloody cold. Therefore, all seats will remain the same as before, with Yukon MP Erik Nielsen gunning for the longest living PC on record award. The Northwest Territories seats will be split with one Tory and one NDP winning in close races.



Province	Total seats	Liberals		PCs		NDP		Socreds	
		Last election	predict	Last election	predict	Last election	predict	Last election	predict
Newfoundland	7	4	4	2	2	1	1	0	0
Prince Edward Island	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	11	2	5	8	5	1	1	0	0
New Brunswick	10	6	7	4	3	0	0	0	0
Quebec	75	67	70	3	2	0	0	5	3
Ontario	97	32	52	57	38	6	5	0	0
Manitoba	14	2	2	7	6	5	6	0	0
Saskatchewan	14	0	0	9	8	5	6	0	0
Alberta	21	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0
British Columbia	28	1	1	19	16	8	11	0	0
North-West Terr.	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Yukon	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Canada	282	114	141	136	107	27	31	5	3

## Conclusion

If you've been following this with a calculator, you will discover this gives Pierre Trudeau 141 seats (out of 282) to 107 for the Conservatives, 31 for the NDP, and three

for the Socreds. Now, this is a ridiculous outcome, but don't forget the last election!

As you may have noticed, this situation is neither a majority nor a minority government, leaving the appointment of the speaker the

deciding factor.

Of course, we're probably wrong. But, being journalists, we enjoy taking a public beating. So clip this out, grab a beer-Monday night, and laugh along with us.

It sure beats crying about it!