

The Road to Prime Minister

During the years as a young lawyer and corporate executive, Brian Mulroney continued to develop his reputation as a key organizer and political strategist for his Party in Quebec.

For traditional and historical reasons, the Progressive Conservative Party had been unable to establish a political base in that province since the death, in 1891, of Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada.

"The challenge is before us and it was clearly laid out by the founder of our Party and this country, Sir John A. Macdonald. He told us the only way, if you are a Conservative Leader, that you can implement your policies, is by recreating that grand alliance of west and east, English and French."

Prime Minister Mulroney

In 1976, the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Robert Stanfield, resigned. Brian Mulroney contested the leadership of the Party, along with ten other candidates. One of his basic commitments was to build the Party in Quebec, because without Quebec seats, the Party could never be guaranteed a national electoral victory.

While he lost the leadership race, his prophecy was borne out by the national election campaign of 1979, when the Party was elected as minority government with only two seats out of a possible 75 from Quebec. That government lasted only six months before it was defeated by a coalition of the other parties.

In 1983, the Party again convened to elect a new leader. More than 3,000 delegates gathered in Ottawa from all across the country. On June 11th, after nearly ten hours of balloting, Brian Mulroney defeated six other candidates to become the new leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

Fluently bilingual, Brian Mulroney has deep roots in the province and is the first leader of the Progressive Conservative Party from Quebec.

"Canada grew out of a challenge undertaken by men and women of different cultures, languages and religions, that they would resolve their differences, would harmonize their interests and would learn to establish as values the respect of others and the betterment of self."

Prime Minister Mulroney



Prime Minister Mulroney and Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga on the occasion of the Canada-Caribbean Commonwealth Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica. The Conference is a focal point in relations between Canada and the 17 Caribbean Commonwealth countries. The Caribbean and Canada enjoy many special cultural, institutional and economic links which predate the Canadian Confederation in 1867.