

Finally in the House of Commons

After his election as Party leader, Brian Mulroney immediately sought a seat in the House of Commons. In August, 1983, he won handily a by-election in the Nova Scotia riding of Central Nova.

In September, with the opening of a new session of Parliament, Brian Mulroney entered the House of Commons as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Very quickly, Opposition Leader Mulroney learned the skills that were required of a party leader and a Member of Parliament. His skills as a labour negotiator and company president were applied to unite the party caucus and demonstrate the image of 'government-in-waiting' to the Canadian public.

In the 'rough and tumble' of the House of Commons, Brian Mulroney earned praise for his poise and agility, for his quick understanding and for his respect for the traditions of parliamentary democracy.

His grasp of Canadian economics and his defence of minority interests, specifically minority language rights, developed instant respect among the Canadian electorate generally. This was no easy task for a parliamentary rookie, who was debating then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, a seasoned veteran of the House.



As Leader of the Opposition in 1983 and 1984, Brian Mulroney spoke firmly and eloquently for an economic and social renaissance in Canada.