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FM OTTAWA

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CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION: RESULTS

SUMMARY

1. THE CONSERVATIVES WIN ANOTHER HANDSOME MAJORITY, BUT SIX MINISTERS LOSE THEIR SEATS. SHARP VARIATIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN REGIONS.

DETAIL

2. THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION ARE:

CONSERVATIVE: 169 SEATS, LIBERAL: 82, NDP: 44.

THE PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN WAS AS FOLLOWS:

	PC	LIB	NDP
NEWFOUNDLAND	2	5	-
NOVA SCOTIA	5	6	-
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	-	4	-
NEW BRUNSWICK	5	5	-
QUEBEC	63	12	-
ONTARIO	47	42	10
MANITOBA	7	5	2
SASKATCHEWAN	4	-	10
ALBERTA	25	-	1
BRITISH COLUMBIA	11	1	20
NORTH WEST TERRITORIES	-	2	-
YUKON	-	-	1
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TOTAL	169	82	44
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3. THE TURNOUT WAS 75 PER CENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS, UP ONLY 1 PER CENT ON 1984 DESPITE THE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY OF THE CAMPAIGN. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VOTE WAS CONSERVATIVE 43 PER CENT, LIBERALS 32 PER CENT, NDP 20 PER CENT AND OTHERS 4 PER CENT. THESE FIGURES WERE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO EVE-OF-ELECTION POLLS PUBLISHED DURING THE WEEKEND AND SHOW THAT THE CONSERVATIVES WERE 7 PER CENT DOWN ON THEIR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE IN 1984. BUT THE OVERALL FIGURES

DISGUISE THE SHARP VARIATIONS BETWEEN AND WITHIN REGIONS. THE LIBERALS WERE MARKEDLY SUCCESSFUL IN ATLANTIC CANADA (WINNING 20 OUT OF 32 SEATS). IN QUEBEC THE CONSERVATIVES MADE AN EVEN CLEANER SWEEP THAN IN 1984 (WHEN THEY TOOK 58 SEATS) AND THIS TIME BREACHED EVEN THE LIBERALS' MONTREAL REDOUBT. IN ONTARIO TOO THEY DID BETTER THAN THEIR OWN BACK-ROOM STRATEGISTS HAD EXPECTED. BUT THERE WERE CURIOUS EDDIES IN THE GENERAL FLOW: FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE OTTAWA AREA THE LIBERALS WON 5 OF THE 6 SEATS. IN THE PRAIRIES THE LIBERALS DID VERY WELL IN WINNIPEG AND THE NDP IN SASKATCHEWAN, IN BOTH CASES REFLECTING LOCAL REJECTION OF FREE TRADE. IN ALBERTA THE CONSERVATIVES VOTE HELD UP BETTER THAN EXPECTED AND THE REFORM PARTY FAILED TO CAUSE ANY UPSETS, THOUGH THE NDP WON A SEAT (IN EDMONTON) FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN BRITISH COLUMBIA THE STRIKING NDP SUCCESS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY DUE TO THE INTERVENTION OF RIGHT-WING FRINGE PARTIES AT CONSERVATIVE EXPENSE.

4. SIX MINSTERS LOST THEIR SEATS: FLORA MACDONALD (COMMUNICATIONS), TOM MACMILLAN (ENVIRONMENT), RAY HYNATYSHYN (JUSTICE), JAMES KELLEHER (SOLICITOR GENERAL), STEWART MCINNES (PUBLIC WORKS) AND GERRY ST GERMAIN (APPOINTED MINISTER OF FORESTS ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO).

5. AS WE HAVE REPORTED BY TELEPHONE JOE CLARK'S WIFE, MS MCTEER, WAS AMONG THE CONSERVATIVE LOSERS IN OTTAWA.

6. FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT, SEE MIFT.

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