

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

On May 2, 2011 Canadians elected a majority government. This could be good news for Canadian firearm owners. Of the 308 seats in the House of Commons, Stephen Harper's Conservatives elected 167 MP's. The Liberals were reduced to a mere 34 seats - their worst showing in history. They were once the predominant force in Canadian federal politics, often starting an election campaign with a monopoly on the 75 seats in Quebec and were characterized as Canada's "natural governing party". And for much of the 20th Century they governed responsibly and owned the centre of the political spectrum. They changed to an oppressive and arrogant lot - evidence the firearm laws which victimized firearm owners and did little to address misuse of guns or enhance public safety. The Liberals had majority governments and did as they pleased. In the early 90's the Separatist Bloc Quebec emerged. Their mandate was ultimate separation by Quebec from the Federation and in the interim their party would support nothing in Parliament unless it was good for Quebec - in other words, Quebec first, always. If every province and territory took the same approach, federalism would never work. One of the biggest surprises of this election was that Quebecers voted for change and the Bloc was reduced to only 4 seats from 47. Even the Bloc leader lost his own seat. The next shocker was who Quebecers chose to support - not the Conservatives, not the Liberals, but rather the New Democrat Party (a little left of Atilah the Hun). And not just in Quebec. The NDP elected 103 parliamentarians - its best historical result - enough to form the "Official Opposition".

The NDP movement was so strong in Quebec, that voters sometimes had little knowledge of the local NDP candidate and seemed not to care. Madame Ruth Ellen Brousseau a 27 year old single mother and assistant bartender was elected by a plurality of over 5,000 votes more than the local Bloc candidate. She had no campaign office, produced no literature, did not campaign and never showed up for any debates. Turns out she didn't even live in the riding, had never visited it in fact, couldn't speak French and spent her time during the campaign vacationing in Las Vegas. The \$157,000.00 annual pay cheque that accompanies her job is a bigger jackpot than Vegas obviously. She was joined by numerous other NDP neophytes who also set some firsts like the 19 year old who was high fiving everybody when he learned what he would be making. He is the youngest member of Parliament in history, but wanted to finish off his part-time job at a local golf course first.

In Canada we, as electors, have one vote and only for the local candidate. The party that gets the greatest number of seats is entitled to form the government and the leader of that party is the Prime Minister.

So why is a majority Conservative government important for the firearm owning community? This is the only party that has aligned with firearm owners in attempts to scrap the long gun registry and significantly amend the Firearms Act and Criminal Code. The new emphasis should be on prosecuting true criminals and respecting the rights of firearm owners. The firearm debate in Canada has been raging for about 20 years. No issue during this time period particularly among rural Canadians has had the effect of galvanizing firearm owners into political activism - a movement to change the legislation by changing the legislators. Harper now has his majority. He has the power to right a lot of wrongs. We expect nothing less.