

Canada

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In 1920, the Prime Minister of Canada was initially Robert Borden, whose Conservative Party (CP) had been in power since 1911. In July 1920, Borden decided to resign due to poor health, and was replaced as the leader of the CP and thus Prime Minister by Arthur Meighen (no SOLS change). In December 1921, however, federal elections were held which resulted in a victory for the Liberal Party, led by William Mackenzie King, who became Prime Minister (SOLS change). However, the Liberals did not win a majority of seats, and were unable to form a coalition with the Progressive Party, who had won the second-largest number of seats. King was able to gain the support of enough Progressives to form a minority government. The elections of 1925 allowed King to remain in power with the minority government, but in June 1926, a corruption scandal led to a motion of censure by the Conservatives. King resigned and Meighen was asked to form a Conservative government (SOLS change). However, just three months later, in September 1926, Meighen also lost his Progressive supporters in Parliament and was also forced to dissolve his government. King once again was able to form an LP government (SOLS change).

The Liberal government under King continued until 1930, when elections resulted in a Conservative victory. The new leader of the Conservative Party, Richard Bedford (R.B.) Bennett, then became Prime Minister (SOLS change). In 1935, the Liberals won a majority in elections and were able to form a majority government under Mackenzie King once again (SOLS change). King and the Liberals would remain in power until 1948.

King left office in 1948, being replaced as prime minister by Louis Stephen Saint Laurent. Saint Laurent served as prime minister until 1957, when elections ousted the LP and signaled a SOLS change.

1957 saw the government taken over by the Progressive Conservative (PC) Party, with John Diefenbaker in control of the prime minister's position. Diefenbaker and the PC stayed in control for three different governments, however, they lost public support eventually and another SOLS change occurred in 1963 when the LP came back to power. Lester Bowles Pearson was the first prime minister under the second wave of LP leadership (until 1968), followed by Pierre Elliott Trudeau (who served until 1979).

The PC briefly took back the government for a year in 1979, with Charles Joseph Clark serving as prime minister until 1980. This transition was coded as a SOLS change, as was the leadership change in 1980 when the LP came back to control under former Prime Minister Trudeau. Trudeau's government was followed shortly by another LP prime minister, John Napier Turner (indicating no SOLS change). This government lasted until 1984.

In 1984, another SOLS change occurred. Martin Brian Mulroney led the CP to victory, and served as its Prime Minister for two governments. In 1993, another conservative government came to power under Kim Campbell for a few months. The liberals regained control in a SOLS change in November of 1993, installing Joseph Jacques Jean Chrétien as prime minister. He led the government for ten years until 2003, then handing over power to fellow LP member Paul Martin Junior.

Martin stayed in power until a shakeup in 2006, when the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC), a coalition party formed in 2003 came to power. The rise of their chosen prime minister, Stephen Harper, represented the last SOLS change before 2008 in Canadian history.

Sources

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