

## The 38th Federal Election, 2004

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### Abstract

This map shows the official results of the 38th Federal Election, held on June 28, 2004, by party affiliation in each of the 308 electoral districts (ridings).

The number of seats won by each party in the election was as follows:

Liberal - 135, Conservative - 99, Bloc Québécois - 54, New Democratic Party - 19, Independent - 1.

As of October 1, 2005, the number of seats by party had changed slightly to: Liberal – 133, Conservative – 98, Bloc Quebecois – 54, New Democratic Party – 19, Independent – 3, Vacant 1.

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### Parliament and Elections

Strictly speaking, "Parliament" (when referring to Canada) is a body made up of three parts: the Sovereign, the Upper House (Senate) and the Lower House (House of Commons). In common usage, however, Parliament has come to mean the House of Commons. Following each federal election, a new House of Commons is elected, and, thus, a new Parliament is created. Therefore, the 38th Parliament will be formed following the 38th federal election.

Federal elections must be held no longer than five years following the immediately preceding election. The timing between elections depends mainly on whether or not one party has a majority:

- If one party wins more than half of the seats in an election (meaning it has a majority in the House of Commons), this party forms a government. The leader of this party becomes the prime minister. Normally, he or she will not call the next general election until four or five years after the preceding election took place.
- If no party wins a majority, a minority government is formed, consisting of one party governing with the support of other parties. Once the minority government is defeated on a confidence issue, the government falls, and it requests that the Governor General dissolve parliament so that a new election can take place. By custom, this request is always granted.

## Changes since Election Day

Since election day, the following events have affected party standings in the House of Commons:

- On November 21, 2004, Carolyn Parrish, M.P. for the Ontario riding of Mississauga—Erindale, left the Liberal caucus to sit as an independent.
- On December 16, 2004, the Liberal M.P. for Labrador, Lawrence D. O'Brien, died. A by-election was subsequently scheduled for May 24, 2005.
- On April 12, 2005, the M.P. for the Alberta riding of Edmonton—Mill Woods—Beaumont, the Hon. David Kilgour, left the Liberal caucus to sit as an independent.
- On May 17, 2005, the M.P. for the Ontario riding of Newmarket—Aurora, Belinda Stronach, left the Conservative Party and joined the Liberal Party.
- On May 24, 2005, the Labrador by-election resulted in the Liberal party retaining this seat. The preliminary results are as follows:

**Table 1:** Labrador By-election Results

Candidate	Party	Percentage of Valid Vote
Todd Russell	Liberal	51.5
Graham Letto	Conservative	32.3
Frances Fry	New Democratic Party	9.9
Em Condon	Independent	5.7
Jason Crummey	Green Party	0.6

**Source:** Elections Canada, 2005.

- On July 9, 2005, the Independent M.P. for the British Columbia riding of Surrey - North, Chuck Cadman, died.
- On June 6, 2005, the Liberal M.P. for the Ontario riding of London-Fanshawe, Pat O'Brien, left the Liberal caucus to sit as an independent.
- On 18 October 2005, the M.P. for the Manitoba riding of Churchill, Bev Desjarlais, left the New Democratic Party caucus to sit as an independent.

For additional details on the relationship of Parliament and elections, and how to interpret this map, refer to the "Data and Mapping Notes" below.

## Data and Mapping Notes

The following are notes to assist the user in understanding how the Atlas of Canada mapped the Elections module. The notes have been organized into the following topics:

- Creating Electoral Districts
- Interpreting the Election Results Maps
- Definitions of Terms Used in the "Get Info from Map" tool
- Comparing the 37th and 38th Election Maps

## **Creating Electoral Districts**

Because of shifts in Canada's population over time, it is necessary to change the boundaries of electoral districts from time to time. The sequence to change the districts begins following the holding of the decennial census (a census held in a year ending in "1" such as 2001). The end result of the changes is a new Representation Order (RO).

Once the Census results are known, the Chief Electoral Officer for Canada determines the number of seats for each province and territory for the new RO. The numbers by province or territory is based not only on population but also on legislation that ensures provinces retain a certain number of seats. The total number of seats has gradually grown from one RO to the next: there were 301 seats in the 1996 RO, and 308 for the 2003 RO.

The procedure for finalizing a new RO is a lengthy one as independent commissions for each province must be created to determine the new riding boundaries. These commissions consult with the public and also with a parliamentary committee before they submit final reports. (As there is only one seat in each of the three territories, no commissions are needed for any of the territories). Once a new RO is proclaimed, several months of preparation time are needed by Elections Canada before the new RO can be used in an election. Thus, the 2003 RO was proclaimed on August 28, 2003, but only came into force for the first dissolution of Parliament after April 1, 2004. The 37th Parliament was dissolved on May 23, 2004, meaning that the necessary 36-day period before voting day would result in an election taking place on June 28, 2004.

The distribution of ridings by province and territory is as follows:

British Columbia - 36, Alberta - 28, Saskatchewan - 14, Manitoba - 14, Ontario - 106, Quebec - 75, New Brunswick - 10, Nova Scotia - 11, Prince Edward Island - 4, Newfoundland and Labrador - 7, Yukon Territory - 1, Northwest Territories - 1, Nunavut - 1.

Normally, an RO is not changed before the authorization to create a new RO. However, changes have been authorized in the boundaries between two New Brunswick ridings, Acadie—Bathurst and Miramichi. These changes will come into effect for the next federal election.

## Interpreting the Election Results Maps

Maps showing election results for Canada must be interpreted with care because a small number of districts cover most of Canada's land area. Conversely, most districts are found in cities, (and, therefore, have small areas) with the result that they can only be seen when one zooms in on the map.

The seats won by each party in each province and territory are as follows:

**Table 2.** Number of Seats Won by Party, Federal Election of June 28, 2004

Provinces and Territories	Liberal	Conservative	Bloc Québécois	New Democratic Party	No Affiliation
Newfoundland and Labrador	5	2			
Prince Edward Island	4				
Nova Scotia	6	3		2	
New Brunswick	7	2		1	
Quebec	21		54		
Ontario	75	24		7	
Manitoba	3	7		4	
Saskatchewan	1	13			
Alberta	2	26			
British Columbia	8	22		5	1
Yukon Territory	1				
Northwest Territories	1				
Nunavut	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>

**Source:** Elections Canada

## Definitions of Terms Used in the "Get Info from Map" Tool

**Federal Electoral District Names.** Members have the right to change the names of their ridings. As of April 2005, legislation has been passed to change the names of 40 ridings.

**Party Elected.** This entry shows the party of the member as of Election Day.

**Name of Candidate Elected.** Two versions are shown here: the form of the name which candidates register for the election, and their preferred style for use in the House of Commons. Since the registration name does not include any titles, most name changes for the House of Commons style reflect candidates already being (or

becoming) members of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. This is normally due to having been or to becoming a cabinet minister. In terms of names, Privy Council membership results in adding 'Hon ' before a name, and 'P.C. ' after the name.

**Turnout.** This is a percentage which is calculated by adding the valid votes and rejected votes cast, and then dividing by the total number of electors on the list.

**Plurality.** This term (often called "majority"), is the difference between the percentage cast for the winning candidate and the percentage for the candidate who finished second. For example, Chuck Cadman, the Independent who won in Surrey North, received 43.8% of the vote, a plurality of 19.7% over the second-place finisher.

### **Comparing the 37th and 38th Election Results Maps**

Users are cautioned to be very careful in visually comparing the two results maps:

- The elections are based on different ROs, meaning that nearly all ridings will have different boundaries at the two election dates.
- There has been a major change in party structure: two parties which contested the 37th election, the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance, and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada have merged to become a single party. This party, the Conservative Party of Canada, was created in 2003.

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### **Map Sources**

#### **The 38th Federal Election, 2004**

Elections Canada. Validated Results of the 38th General Election on June 28, 2004.

### **Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)**

#### **Federal Government**

Canada. Library of Parliament. How Canadians Govern Themselves  
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/AboutParliament/Forsey/index-e.asp>

Canada Site



<http://canada.gc.ca/home.html>

The Canada Site is the Internet access point through which Internet users worldwide can obtain information about Canada, the Government of Canada and its programs, services and citizen initiatives.

#### Elections Canada

<http://www.elections.ca/home.asp?textonly=false>

Elections Canada is the non-partisan agency responsible for the conduct of federal elections and referendums. This agency is also the official source for names of electoral districts, registered political parties and voting data for federal elections and by-elections.

#### Government of Canada. The Parliament of Canada

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/index.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&ses=3>

This site contains current and past data about membership in the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada.

#### Statistics Canada. Federal Electoral District (FED) Profile

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/fedprofile/index.cfm>

The Statistics Canada site has a profile of federal electoral districts. This shows, for each district, a variety of 2001 Census data grouped into the following categories: demographic characteristics, education, income and dwellings. The site also lets users see a map of each district.