

## Elections in Canada:

### Results, perspectives and challenges

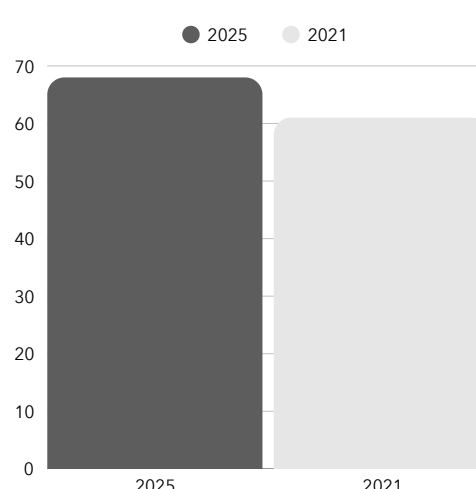
Canada's federal election was held on Monday, **April 28, 2025**, after Prime Minister Mark Carney called for the dissolution of Parliament on March 23, 2025, bringing forward the elections that were scheduled for October.

#### Results



- **Liberal Party:** It obtained 168 seats, so far falling short of an absolute majority by 4 seats (172); therefore, Mark Carney will be Prime Minister for another term. A minority government is likely to form.
- **New Democratic Party (NDP):** It obtained 7 seats. Its leader, Jagmeet Singh, did not retain his seat and resigned from leading the Party.
- Smaller parties experienced declines in their parliamentary representation, giving preference to the two largest parties.

#### Voter turnout



- **2025: 67.3%.** Higher than 62.2% in 2021.
- **Record early voting** was observed, with more than **7.3 million** Canadians casting their ballots before election day.
- This increase in participation is attributed to several factors, including **national sovereignty** in the face of threats from Donald Trump, which fueled a sense of nationalism among citizens.

#### Background and context

- Voters described the process as **"the most important election of their lives."**
- **Mark Carney was criticized for his ties to China** and his role in helping companies invest in Canada. Most Canadians view China as a security issue, so they doubted he would be able to limit Chinese interference in Canadian affairs, but other issues gained prominence:
  - **The decline in purchasing power.**
  - **Housing crisis.**
  - **Unemployment and crime.**
  - **The relationship with the US.**
- Although the Liberal Party was in crisis six months ago, **the international context changed the course of the election.**

#### Insights

- **It is still unclear whether the Liberal Party will achieve a majority in Parliament**, which would allow it to pass legislation without having to form alliances with other parties. So far, all indications are that it will not achieve this.
  - It is important to highlight that minority governments in Canada rarely last more than 2.5 years.
- Pierre Poilievre, who lost his Ottawa provincial seat, could also be **ousted as Conservative Party leader**, as he failed to form a government.
- Because Carney was already prime minister, **no immediate changes to his cabinet are expected.**

#### Relationship with Mexico

- Carney has expressed interest in **strengthening relations with Mexico** in the face of trade tensions with the U.S., and he also supports the USMCA.
- President Claudia Sheinbaum congratulated him after his electoral victory and assured that the bilateral relationship will continue to be based on mutual respect and cooperation, especially within the framework of the USMCA.

With Mark Carney now in office as prime minister, there will be no transition period. However, leading a minority government, **he anticipates a complex term with challenges in passing reforms without parliamentary alliances.**




On the international front, relations with the United States are emerging as one of the main focuses, which will mark this new political phase in Canada.



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### Mark Carney's proposals

 Foreign Policy	 Housing	 Cost of living	 Industries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintaining retaliatory tariffs on the U.S.</b>, but not increasing them to avoid damaging the economy.</li> <li>• <b>Diversifying the Canadian economy;</b> strengthening ties with Europe and Asia.</li> <li>• Investigate ways to distance Canada from US influence and increase Canadian manufacturing. He suggests <b>an international trade order where the US is not at the center.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build more than 500,000 homes annually.</li> <li>• Create a federal agency to oversee the <b>construction of affordable housing.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tax cuts for the middle class.</b></li> <li>• Elimination of GST for first-time homebuyers on properties up to \$1 million.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2 billion Strategic Response Fund to <b>protect the automotive sector</b> from U.S. tariffs.</li> <li>• Investment in energy and mining projects.</li> <li>• Construction of factories.</li> </ul>

### Statements after the victory:

- Mark Carney stated that the traditional relationship with the US based on economic integration is over.
- He **called for unity**, stressing the importance of overcoming internal divisions and working together to address the country's challenges.
- He promised to govern with all parties, territories, and civil society to **strengthen national sovereignty in the face of external pressures.**
- He announced a new housing industry utilizing Canadian technology and resources. He also pledged to address the economic issues affecting the population.