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Canada’s Trudeau clings to power; must court left after losing popular vote

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hung onto power after a tight election on Monday that saw his government reduced to a minority, results that will likely push his agenda to the left while alienating energy producing provinces.

Trudeau, one of the world’s most prominent progressive politicians, struggled with domestic scandals. He now looks set to govern with support from the left-leaning New Democrats, who have 24 seats.

His Liberals did not win any seats in the oil-rich provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The party was leading or elected in 157 seats, a decrease of 20, preliminary results showed.

Minority governments in Canada rarely last more than 2-1/2 years. Although the New Democrats lost 16 seats, leader Jagmeet Singh is positioned to press for action on priorities such as more social spending and increased action on climate change.

RELATED COVERAGE

Canada NDP leader says Trudeau must respect realities of minority government

Explainer: What happens in Canada now that Trudeau seems headed for a minority government

One senior Liberal noted that many legislators need to serve another two years to meet the six-year requirement for a Parliamentary pension.

“That gives us a pretty free hand for that period,” said the Liberal, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the matter.

The New Democrats struck deals to help keep Liberal minority governments in power from 1972-1974 and in 2005.

Together the two parties can muster a majority 180 seats in the 338-seat House of Commons.

The election was a disappointment for Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, whose party gained seats but not the majority it had sought.

The Canadian dollar weakened against the greenback on Tuesday and the heavily-weighted energy sector fell on the Toronto stock market, as investors worried that a minority government would make it more difficult to build new oil pipelines.

Trudeau visited Montreal’s subway, posing for selfies with commuters early on Tuesday, an echo of 2015 when he did the same thing.

This win was different. But Trudeau barely mentioned the loss of his majority when he spoke to supporters early on Tuesday, saying he had “a clear mandate” for a progressive agenda and more action to combat global



Liberal leader and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reacts beside his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau after the federal election at the Palais des Congres in Montreal, Quebec, Canada October 22, 2019. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri

warming.

This is unlikely to please the western provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which cast out every Liberal legislator amid anger over what the energy industry sees as overly stringent environmental rules.

Canada’s oil sands, home to the world’s third-largest crude reserves, lie entirely within Alberta. The energy sector accounts for 11% of Canadian GDP.

“This truly is the worst possible outcome,” said Tim Pickering, chief executive of Auspice Capital Advisers, which manages a Canadian crude oil exchange-traded fund. “We have got a Liberal minority and the balance of power shifts to the NDP and the Greens, who are completely opposed to any progressive energy policies.”

The most prominent victim in the Liberals’ western losses was Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, one of Trudeau’s top cabinet members.

Trudeau’s liberal image took a blow early in the campaign when photos emerged of him wearing blackface in the early 1990s and in 2001.

He had already been wrestling with fallout from accusations he pressured former Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould to help shield engineering firm SNC-Lavalin Group Inc (SNC.TO) from corruption charges. In August, a top watchdog said he had breached ethics rules.

Liberal leader and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reacts beside his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau after the federal election at the Palais des Congres in Montreal, Quebec, Canada October 22, 2019. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri

Wilson-Raybould, now an independent member of parliament, retained her seat on Monday, a feat in a country where nearly all legislators are backed by major parties. Former minister Jane Philpott, who also quit the cabinet over the affair and ran as an independent, lost her Ontario riding.

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Editor's Choice



Demonstrators take part in a protest against Chile's state economic model in Santiago, Chile, October 21, 2019. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Liberal leader and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau wave to supporters after the federal election at the Palais des Congres in Montreal, Quebec, Canada October 22, 2019. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Voting information pamphlets sit on a table as NDP leader Jagmeet Singh helps sort documents at the NDP election office on Election Day in Burnaby



Japan's Empress Masako leaves after a ceremony to proclaim Emperor Naruhito's enthronement to the world, called Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan October 22, 2019. REUTERS/Issei Kato/Pool TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Japan's Emperor Naruhito makes his appearance during a ceremony to proclaim his enthronement to the world, called Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan, October 22, 2019. REUTERS/Issei Kato/Pool TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Liberal Party supporters flash V-signs while watching the live federal election results at the Palais des Congres in Montreal, Quebec, Canada October 21, 2019. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is seen in the courtroom sketch during a case management hearing in Assange's U.S. extradition case at Westminster Magistrates Court, in London



Justin Trudeau looks at his son Hadrien Trudeau at his polling place before he casts his ballot for today's election in the Papineau area of Montreal

The class of 2018 graduated with a record average of \$29,200 in loans to help pay for a bachelor’s degree, reports USA Today.

Why it matters: It was unusual to graduate with a high amount of debt a few decades ago, but “we have depressed ourselves into a mindset in which \$30,000 in debt is acceptable for a degree,” Mark Huelsman, an associate director at the left-leaning think tank Demos, told the newspaper.

The big picture: Some schools are trying to address affordability and debt concerns for the cost of an education, but students often use loan money to cover the cost of living expenses.

•The University of Michigan and the University of Virginia introduced aid programs to help some students pay for classes.

•New York offers free tuition at some public colleges for residents whose families earn up to \$125,000.

•New Mexico announced a free tuition plan this week for any state resident who attends a public school. These plans, like many of the free college proposals floated by 2020 Democrats, are geared toward public institutions — meaning that those attending private universities across the country still have to shoulder the burden themselves.

•**Worth noting:** The richest and most prestigious private universities often offer extensive financial aid packages of their own. For example, Harvard and Stanford both expect families that make up to \$65,000 to contribute nothing — and Stanford offers no tuition charges for families making up to \$125,000.

By the numbers:

•Two out of three of last year’s college grads owe more than 2017’s.
•Students who attended college in the Northeast have the highest average debt.
•Students in Connecticut had the highest average at \$38,650, and students in Utah had the lowest at \$19,750.
•“Black students and those from low-income backgrounds were more likely to have debt at graduation,” per USA Today.

Average U.S. Student Debt Hits Record



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Related
Debt-free college: Where the Democratic 2020 presidential candidates stand



Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Beto O’Rourke, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Sen. Cory Booker. (Photo/ Getty Images)

A clear divide exists among 2020 Democrats who are rolling out plans to tackle the student debt crisis, whether tuition-free or debt-free policies are the way to win voter support.

By the numbers: Student debt in the United States has reached \$1.5 trillion, and it is responsible for much of millennials and Generation X’s anguish.

In Congress

Congressional committees have launched hearings to reauthorize the

Higher Education Act, which aim to promote more affordability in college costs, student loan programs and more. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.) reintroduced legislation to help students eliminate debt within 5 years of graduating.

Tuition-free

These programs provide students 2 years of free tuition at participating state community colleges, associate-degree programs and vocational schools. The majority fall into the category of “last dollar” scholarships, indicating the program pays the difference in tuition after financial aid and grants have kicked in, per CNBC.



•**Sen. Bernie Sanders** (I-Vt.) is still running on his 2016 campaign promise to make college tuition free and debt free. In 2016, Sanders introduced a bill called the “College for All Act,” making public college tuition-free to students through a partnership with the federal government. In June, he revealed plans to eliminate all \$1.6 trillion of student debt and pay for it by raising taxes on Wall Street.

•**Former HUD Secretary Julián Castro** released a plan to end tuition at public colleges and universities, community colleges and technical and vocational programs. It would be paid for by sharing “the financing of tuition costs with state governments and provide incentives to reduce the cost of college programs.” Castro also wants to defer loan repayments until graduates are earning above 2.5 times the federal poverty level, or \$64,375 for a 4-person household.



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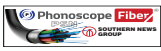
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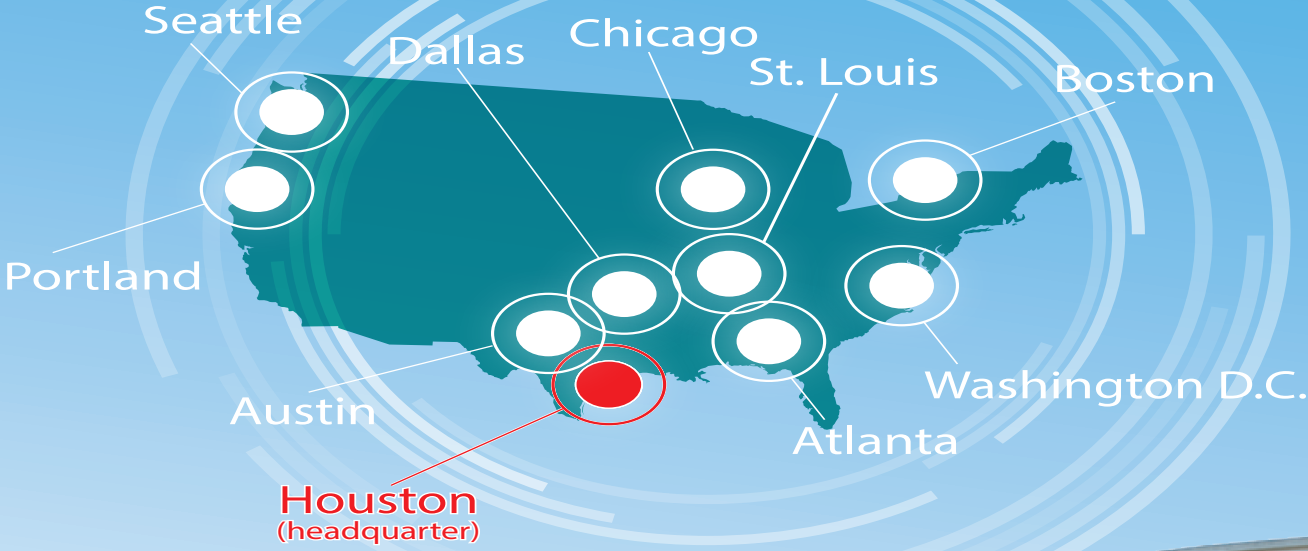
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“Law enforcement is expected to use hearsay to lead to more direct sources

The majority of Americans support opening impeachment proceedings.

“Here’s a confession. I used to think

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