Elected

Welcome to the final explainer in the What to Expect When You’re Expecting series. This week, we look at Canada’s new Parliament, what happens next, and how you can stay involved. For more explainers, go to samaracanada.com/what-to-expect.

Elections are the event by which people decide who will represent them in government. These decisions can shape the direction of the country and can also reward smaller parties with broad support from Canadians across the country, and can also reward smaller parties with support concentrated in certain regions and ridings.

The ballots were counted and the candidate who received the most votes in each constituency now represents that community as its new Member of Parliament (MP). Here are the most votes in each constituency:

- People’s Party of Canada
- Liberal Party
- Conservative Party
- Bloc Quebecois
- New Democratic Party
- Green Party
- Independent

As you can see, some parties received a lot more votes, while other parties received even less. The current party distribution suggests. Our current electoral system rewards parties with support concentrated in certain regions and ridings.

If the Liberal Party can maintain the confidence of the House, the leader will remain prime minister and continue governing. If confidence is lost, another party will be given the chance to form government (and another confidence vote will be held).

In terms of setting up which party and prime minister will lead our government, that’s it! (Although, let’s be honest, that was a lot.)

In Canada, governments can form in one of three ways:

1. A minority government means that the Liberal Party won fewer than half of the 338 seats in the House of Commons (fewer than 169 total seats). If it forms government, it cannot pass legislation (laws) that requires the support of at least half of the MPs (seats in the House). The previous government remains in power if it can maintain the confidence of the House of Commons (thus, a minority government is a government (and another confidence vote will be held).

2. A coalition government is created when two or more political parties jointly form government (and another confidence vote will be held).

3. A minority government. In Canada, governments aren’t won—the majority government is being negotiated and decided on. The numbers above indicate that the Liberal Party can form a minority government in Canada. In Canada, governments aren’t won, there is a place for you.

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The result of the election in the House of Commons when the ballots were counted last night:

- House of Commons (seats in total)
- Liberal 157 121 24
- Conservative 32 24 1
- Bloc Quebecois 0 3 0
- NDP 6 4 2
- People’s Party 0 0 0
- Green 0 0 0
- Independent 0 0 0

Want to learn more about Canadian politics? Go to our Political Participation Checklist!

For more ideas on how to stay engaged, check out our Political Participation Checklist!

LEARN ABOUT:

1. Who’s a minority government?
2. What’s a coalition government?
3. What’s a minority government?
4. What’s a minority government?