

IPS

north america

NALP Destroys NDP in Canadian Elections

TORONTO, July 12 (IPS) — In an unexpected upset, the Liberal Party was returned to power with an absolute parliamentary majority and 43 per cent of the popular vote (up from 38 per cent in 1972) in Monday's Canadian federal elections. The Progressive Conservatives, who literally handed the election over to their Liberal rivals, lost about 9 per cent of their seats in Parliament, while the New Democratic Party (NDP) — whose hold on the parliamentary balance of power enabled it to bring down the Trudeau government in May — suffered a resounding well-deserved defeat. NDP losses amounted to 16 out of 31 seats, including that of party leader David Lewis in Toronto.

The election outcome has a twofold significance. First, it signals the virtual destruction of the counterinsurgency capabilities of the "progressive" fascist, Rockefeller-controlled NDP. This destruction, a highly important victory for the continental working class, was accomplished primarily by the North American Labor Party's (NALP) intensive propaganda campaign which exposed the "socialist" NDP to hundreds of thousands of workers for the fascist force it actually is, thereby neutralizing a significant portion of its support. Second, the surprise Liberal victory gives that party a clear popular mandate which it will use to institute severe austerity policies.

NALP Defeats NDP

The devastating blow which the NALP's mere handful of organizers dealt to the NDP effectively robs Rockefeller of an important "left" diversion whose main task has been to lure political workers away from potentially revolutionary activity and into support for such suicidal idiocy as "Canada for Canadians" and fascist economic programs. The Labor Party's detailed, ruthless expose of the NDP circulated throughout the working class, severely damaging NDP election prospects. NDP members reported that their in-plant organizers in the Golden Horseshoe couldn't organize for their party because workers would demand they answer the *New Solidarity* exposes.

The NDP received its most devastating blow in Europe where the European Labor Committees galvanized trade

union opposition to leading NDP cohort, UAW head Leonard Woodcock, and his social fascist program at the International Metalworkers Federation convention held in Sweden last week. Workers — especially UAW members — enthusiastically greeted the development, which contributed in Canada to a massive defection from the NDP.

The Election: What It Means

The less politically conscious workers who fled from the NDP generally voted for the Liberals, in order to block the incomes policy of the Progressive Conservatives.

Overall voter turnout declined by a drastic 6.6 per cent, largely due to voter apathy. A substantial proportion of this decline was in working-class districts, indicating that though many workers were thoroughly fed up with all major parties, they weren't yet ready to make the major psychological shift to the Labor Party.

However, the most highly political workers did. Obvious vote-stealing prevents an exact estimate of the total NALP vote, which "official" accounts give as 42 for Andre Doucet in Vancouver and 186 for Rick Sanders in Toronto. However, that the authorities were compelled to engineer vote fraud testifies to the actual significance of the true Labor Party returns. The Labor Party plans to challenge the official returns as fraudulent.

NDP, Communist Party in Shreds; Workers Face Choice

A further effect of the NALP campaign was to provide a focal point for the crystallization of a pro-working-class factional tendency within the dessicated Communist Party of Canada (CPC). The abysmal spectacle of the CPC trailing after the NDP, claiming that "slave labor is too strong a word" to describe the mushrooming Athabasca Tar Sands-type "development" projects, combined with the Labor Party's clear sense of political strategy, compelled a group of Communist Party members and a longtime leader of the party's Niagara region to resign. Beyond this, NALP candidates out-poled all 63 CPC candidates except party head William Kashtan and a well-known pro-working-class party member.