



Government Relations Report

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On October 21st Canadians elected a Liberal minority government. The Liberal seats in the House of Commons were reduced to 157, while Conservative leader Andrew Sheer increased the Conservative seats to 121 followed by the Bloc with 32, the NDP with 24 and the Greens with 3 (an increase of 2).

Nearly a month to the day Prime Minister Trudeau unveiled his Cabinet for the Liberals second mandate (for a list of Cabinet members go to www.liberal.ca/your-cabinet/).

Once again the Cabinet is gender-balanced with only one additional seat. The Prime Minister has chosen to highlight members with genuine roots in Western Canada to offset the Liberals lack of electoral representation in the West. This follows acknowledgement by the Prime Minister that the message from the West was loud and clear, he heard their concerns and now government needed to move forward with addressing them. Jim Carr has been tasked as the Special Representative to the Prairies. To address the challenge of the resurgence of the Bloc in Quebec Trudeau appointed Pablo Rodriguez as his "Quebec Lieutenant". He will have his hands full.

While there are many familiar faces in this new cabinet, such as Lawrence MacAulay who remains Minister of Veterans Affairs, there are several new faces that will play a pivotal role in the work of the CAND at the Federal level. Patty Hajdu (Thunder Bay-Superior North) has been named Health Minister replacing Ginette Petitpas-Taylor who is now Deputy Government Whip. Ms. Hajdu has garnered a reputation as a competent Minister and team player having been promoted twice in the previous Cabinet. Marc Miller (Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Quest-Ile-des-Soeurs) is the new Minister of Indigenous Services. A high achiever and well respected by his caucus colleagues, Miller is most known for delivering a speech in the House in 2017 in the Mohawk language, signaling that he took engagement with Indigenous communities very seriously. Once all Ministers have received their Mandate Letters we will have a better understanding of the Governments plans for each portfolio and will work with our government relations experts at H + K on a strategy to move our agenda forward on the professions behalf. We will continue to push for coverage of the services provided by Naturopathic Doctors for Veterans and Indigenous peoples;

the inclusion of NDs on the list of practitioners able to authorize Cannabis for medical purposes; maintain our engagement with the Public Health Agency of Canada on both the Lyme and Opioid files, as well as our work with the Natural and Non-Pharmaceutical Health Products Directorate (NHPD).

The House of Commons returned on December 5, 2019 with a Speech from the Throne and the election of the Speaker of the House. The House is now adjourned for the Holiday break until January 27th. In the interim staff are being reassigned and/or hired, the MPs are settling into their offices and plans are being made for 2020. As the Liberals are still in power many of the MPs, senior policy advisors and staff are people with whom the CAND has established relationships making it easier to move forward with our work as we do not have to start from the beginning to introduce both our organization and the profession to a whole new group of MPs. Letters of congratulations from the CAND have been sent to the newly appointed Ministers and we encourage NDs to congratulate the successful candidates in their area utilizing the template found on the landing page of the Members Portal.

We thank all of you who downloaded and used the election materials posted by the CAND. We were pleased to hear that you found them valuable and that they were helpful in candidate meetings that were held right across the Country. Thank you for adding your voice and helping us to get the message out during the election on who you are and the difference you are making in the lives of Canadians every day! 🍁