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| From: | H+K Strategies Ottawa |
| Date: | October 23, 2019 |
| Subject: | Justin Trudeau Post-Election Press Conference |

## MEMO

Context

On Monday, October 21, 2019 the Liberal government was reduced to a minority government with only 157 seats, while Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer increased the Conservative seat-share to 121 seats in the House of Commons. On Wednesday, October 23, a more conciliatory Prime Minister Trudeau held a press conference in Ottawa where he underscored that has heard Canadians, who delivered a clear message that the government must work together address climate change and the cost of living, and stressed that he is prepared to get to work with other party leaders to address Canadians’ top issues.

Trudeau recognized that the election was among the most divisive and negative without much-needed debates on significant policy issues, something that he regrets, and took responsibility for the fact that much of the conversation revolved around him and his issues.

Speaking to regional fractures and national unity, Trudeau noted that the fact that the Liberals were shut out of Alberta and Saskatchewan is not the key issue, rather that he has heard their concerns and now government must move forward with addressing them. To that end, Trudeau has already called Premiers Kenney and Moe, and will be in contact with other Leaders throughout the West, notably Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, to discuss solutions to regional issues and concerns. Trudeau avoided committing to having Alberta and Saskatchewan representation in his Cabinet, noting that there is historical precedence for there not being representation from every region.

On Quebec, Trudeau noted that Bill 21 may have been a deciding factor in Liberal results in the province and added that he would consider over the coming weeks whether he will have a “Quebec Lieutenant.” While he did not rule out working with the Bloc Quebecois on important issues like climate change, he stressed that the Liberals are a strongly federalist party and national unity will remain a key consideration and issue for the Liberals.

**Key Takeaways – Transition and Governance**

* A gender-balanced cabinet will be sworn in on November 20th.
* The Liberals have no plan to enter into a formal or informal coalition. Trudeau will meet with the other leaders and the Liberals will work collaboratively with other parties to pass legislation that addresses the top issues as conveyed by Canadians.
* The Liberals will fill Senate vacancies and proceed with changes to the Parliament of Canada Act to address their changes to the Senate.
* Trudeau has been briefed by his Chief of Staff, Clerk of the Privy Council and National Security Advisor on a number of issues, including China. He’ll continue to receive briefings over the coming weeks and will meet with new Canadian Ambassador to China Dominic Barton to discuss how best to respond to rising tensions.
* Trudeau has had discussions with several Premiers already, including Jason Kenney, Scott Moe, and Doug Ford where there was agreement Leaders must work together on the issues most important to Canadians.

**Key Takeaways – Policy and Legislation**

* The first Bill to be introduced by the Liberals will be for a middle-class tax cut
* The government will be moving forward with the expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline
* Priorities over the first 100 days of government include: a middle-class tax cut, medically assisted dying, climate change.
* Liberals will work with other parties on fiscal policy (debts and deficits), determined by how best to addressed the most pressing issues for Canadians.