

World News Roundup

Canada

10 elected

'Aboriginals' in Parliament

TORONTO, Oct 22, (AP) Justin Trudeau was not the only winner in Canada's election this week: The country's aboriginal community saw a record 10 indigenous members elected to Parliament - up from seven in 2011 - in a victory for a community that said it was neglected throughout nearly a decade of Conservative rule.

The election also saw a record-breaking 54 First Nations candidates run for office. Still, indigenous people will end up occupying just 3 percent of the 338 seats in Canada's House of Commons.



Trudeau

Indigenous peoples comprise 4.3 percent of the population, according to Statistics Canada, a government agency that collects census data.

New Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals won a majority of the seats in Parliament and ended Conservative leader Stephen Harper's more than nine years in power in Monday's elections. Of the 18 aboriginal candidates who ran for the Liberals, eight won seats.

Trudeau campaigned on a promise of a new era of respect for indigenous people and committed to increased consultation, improved language rights, a national inquiry into missing and murdered women and more money for education. He also promised to attend future meetings of the Assembly of First Nations.

Process

Chiefs have often complained about a lack of money for tribal education, the poor conditions of reserves, a frustrating process for settling land claims, the government's refusal to call an inquiry into the high number of murdered and missing aboriginal women and Harper's reluctance to meet face-to-face. There is also a growing empowerment of young indigenous people who are angered by the disparities between their standard of living and that of the rest of Canada.

Newly elected Liberal member of Parliament Dan Vandal in Saint Boniface-Saint Vital, Manitoba, thanked voters for ushering in a record high number of indigenous people into office.

"First Nations issues will now come to the forefront in the House of Commons," he said. "Whether it's murdered and missing indigenous women or education on reserves, a resolution for Metis land claim issues, we're going to get a higher profile and hopefully a resolution of those issues. My role is going to be to speak loudly for the people of my community."

Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak estimated that more than 11,000 new aboriginal voters went to the polls in northern Manitoba alone.

Accommodate

Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde said that extra ballots had to be brought in to accommodate the numbers.

"Running out of ballots hasn't happened before," said Bellegarde. "I can tell you from talking to chiefs across Canada, there was an excitement, an awareness about this election. Aboriginal people were lined up in band offices and community centers to vote. People were engaged like never before."

Bellegarde said his office is still working to confirm aboriginal voter turnout numbers but estimates it jumped from 40 percent to more than 50 percent this year.

Aboriginal voter numbers increased for several reasons. Bellegarde said some aboriginal chiefs bused residents to the polling stations and some closed their band offices ahead of the election to rally communities to vote. Community members also launched a "Rock the Vote," campaign on social media to mobilize young people to vote in Canada's east and mid-west provinces.

But the most significant motivator to rally voters was the desire for change and to oust Harper.

"I voted to get Harper out," said Vancouver resident Lorelei Williams, 35. "We needed a government who cared about our indigenous people and both the NDP and Liberals cared about us."

Harper issued an historic apology in Parliament in 2008 for one of the darkest periods in Canadian history - from the 19th century until the 1970s - when more than 150,000 aboriginal children were forced to attend Christian schools to rid them of their native cultures and languages and they were often abused in these schools.



Ceremonial sentries leave the National War Memorial as the guard is change in Ottawa, on Oct 21. A ceremony will be held Thursday to mark the one-year anniversary of a shooting at the memorial. (AP)

Police warned before jihadist stormed Canada's parliament: report

Federal police were warned about Islamic State group threats against its officers days before the first jihadist attacks on Canadian soil in Oct 2014, but budget cuts had forced patrols around Parliament to be reduced, a report said Wednesday. Canada's public broadcaster CBC

cited documents it obtained nearly a year after a gunman shot dead a ceremonial guard and stormed Parliament before being killed himself.

The 1,000-page dossier, it said, contained glimpses of security lapses that may have allowed the gunman

to carry out the attack just two days after a soldier was run over and killed in rural Quebec in a separate attack.

Officials were warned on Oct 18 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Criminal Intelligence Unit that the IS group was "actively

encouraging jihadists in the West and encouraging newly sworn militants to launch attacks against members of law enforcement from countries fighting its troops".

"ISIS threats against law enforcement in the West are real ... (and) Canada is not immune to such

threats", it said.

Canadian fighter jets were about to join a US-led coalition launching air strikes against the IS group in Iraq and Syria. Suddenly the nation found itself defending against two separate terror attacks on Oct 20 and 22, 2014. (AFP)

Britain



Britain's Prince Harry talks to two soldiers who both lost their legs in Afghanistan in 2010 at St Paul's Cathedral, London, following a service marking the 75th anniversary of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) across the Armed Forces, on Oct 22. (AP)

Britain

IRA does not control Sinn Fein:

Irish political party Sinn Fein is not run by its former paramilitary wing the Irish Republican Army despite allegations the terrorist group was still operating in secret, party leader Gerry Adams said on Wednesday.

His comments come after a report found the main republican and unionist groups in Northern Ireland including the IRA still existed, raising questions over their continuing role.

"No one can control Sinn Fein but the Sinn Fein membership," said party leader Gerry Adams in a televised interview on Wednesday evening.

"There is a suggestion Sinn Fein is controlled by some outside body or group. We are not," he told national broadcaster RTE.

Sinn Fein was the political wing of the IRA during The Troubles, 30 years of violence in which 3,500 people died, and which was largely ended by a 1998 peace deal. (AFP)

Xi says goodbye to queen: British Prime Minister David Cameron planned to discuss the fight against extremism with Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday on a state visit hailed as a landmark by both China and Britain. Xi and his wife said goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II after spending two nights as the monarch's guest at Buckingham Palace. Xi will dine at Cameron's country estate, Chequers, before visiting the north-

BoE's Carney accused of wading into politics
UK support for EU membership falls

WE to put pro-women policies at top of agenda

New feminist party wants to shake up politics

LONDON, Oct 22, (RTRS): British support for staying in the European Union has tumbled in the past four months, cutting the lead of the "in" campaign to 13 percentage points, according to an Ipsos MORI poll on Thursday.

The poll showed 52 percent of Britons would vote to stay in the EU, down from 61 percent in June, while 39 percent would vote to leave, up from 27 percent in June.

That cuts the "in" campaign's lead to 13 percentage points from 34 points in June, Ipsos said.

Meanwhile, Britain's central bank governor's upbeat assessment of the European Union's membership is regrettable, a prominent campaigner for a British exit said on Thursday, accusing Mark Carney of overstepping the mark and venturing into politics.

Ahead of a referendum on whether to leave the EU that Prime Minister David Cameron has promised by the end of 2017, Carney's emphasis on the economic benefits of membership was seen as a thinly veiled intervention in the sensitive political debate.

Dynamic

Carney said membership had opened up Britain's economy, made it more dynamic and promoted competition, making it possibly the biggest winner from the bloc's single market.

But he also cautioned that the EU had to make sure the interests of non euro zone countries, such as Britain, were protected when drawing up rules for the financial sector as the single currency area gets increasingly integrated.

"I found his speech regrettable," Nigel Lawson, a former British finance minister who now helps lead a group of Conservative Party lawmakers opposed to membership.

"I have known many governors

over the years and I can't think of any previous governor who would weigh in in a political way on an issue such as this," said Lawson who served as Margaret Thatcher's finance minister from 1983 to 1989.

Carney's comments were welcomed by pro-EU campaigners and by British finance minister George Osborne who has also stressed the importance of safeguarding the interests of non euro zone countries.

But Lawson said Carney had failed to address the "growing mass of regulation coming from Brussels which is a

huge burden."

A British EU exit would shake the Union to its core, ripping away its second-largest economy. Pro-Europeans warn a divorce could hurt Britain's economy and lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom by triggering another Scottish independence vote.

Opponents of membership say Britain would thrive outside the bloc.

Carney, a former Goldman Sachs investment banker who took up his post at the Bank of England in 2013, stressed in the speech that he was not weighing up the pros and cons of

Britain's EU membership, but rather its implications for the Bank of England.

"The speech will be seen as another foray by Carney into a heated political debate, and it's tone comes across as friendly to the campaign for keeping the UK within the European Union," Allan Monks, an analyst at JP Morgan, said in a note to clients.

Monks said Carney's remarks, while stopping short of an explicit endorsement, added to a call this week from employers group CBI for Britain to stay in a reformed EU.

"This will not, as the scaremongers suggest, permit mediocrity," she said. "Rather it will stamp it out by eradicating the centuries-old system of unwritten quotas, which have created institutions in which wealthy, white, male elites wield far more power than the rest of us."

Her party wants to make all parties field women candidates in two-thirds of seats in the next two general elections, due in 2020 and 2025.

"We have 30 million women in the country, I am sure we can find 325 brilliant ones to become MPs," said Walker.

Germany passed a law earlier this year requiring major companies to allot 30 percent of seats on non-executive boards to women, following Norway which introduced a 40 percent quota in 2003.

WE wants to see similar rules for listed companies' boards in Britain. An international milestone was the election to the European Parliament last year of Soraya Post, a Swedish Roma and mother of four who campaigned for the party Feminist Initiative under the

west England city of Manchester to end his four-day trip. Cameron's office said Thursday's talks would focus on international affairs and how China can help battle extremism. (AP)

British spy in IRA to be probed: Northern Ireland prosecutors say a British



Adams



Xi

Army spy who worked inside the Irish Republican Army will be investigated for his alleged role in at least two dozen killings.

The director of public prosecutions, Barra McGrory, made the announcement Wednesday citing evidence compiled by Northern Ireland's police complaints watchdog into the shadowy activities of

the agent codenamed Stakeknife. Stakeknife allegedly ran the IRA's internal affairs unit responsible for identifying, interrogating and killing spies and informers. McGrory said he expected Northern Ireland's police to appoint an independent investigator to look into Stakeknife's involvement in such IRA killings and the role played by his military overseers. (AP)