

Canada election campaign begins

The campaign for Canada's federal election is underway, with Prime Minister *Stephen Harper* campaigning for a fourth consecutive term

KEY DATES IN HARPER'S YEARS IN POWER

- **Jan 2006:** Harper's Conservative Party wins national elections with 124 out of 308 seats
- **Oct 2008:** Conservatives re-elected, again without majority
- **Dec 2009:** Canada faces harsh criticism for refusing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- **Feb 2010:** Vancouver hosts *Winter Olympics*, boosting Canada's profile on world stage
- **Jun:** G8 and G20 summits in Toronto, marred by days of sometimes violent street protests
- **May 2011:** Conservatives re-elected with 166 seats – third consecutive term in power
- **Jul:** Canada becomes first NATO member to wind down its military mission in Afghanistan
- **Dec:** Canada withdraws from *Kyoto Protocol*, after signing emissions-reducing pact in 1997
- **Mar 2012:** Austerity budget ditches one cent coin and cuts 19,000 civil servant jobs
- **Jul 2013:** Massive train explosion in Quebec kills 47 people
- **Oct 20, 2014:** Jihadist shoots two soldiers near Montreal in first extremist attack on Canadian soil



Stephen Harper (56)



- **Oct 22:** Lone gunman kills ceremonial guard in Ottawa and storms parliament before being killed
- **Nov:** Canada joins U.S.-led coalition in airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq
- **Jun 2015:** Anti-terror law dramatically expands powers and reach of Canada's spy agency
- **Jul:** Central bank says country is officially in recession
- **Aug 2:** Harper dissolves parliament, calls general election for October 19

OPPOSITION

- **Tom Mulcair** 
New Democratic Party: Poll leader Mulcair (66) took over as party leader in 2011. Would be first NDP prime minister
- **Justin Trudeau** 
Liberal Party: Trudeau (43), son of former prime minister *Pierre Trudeau*, became Liberal leader in 2013