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MP-elect Monsef makes history



A campaign volunteer, a political activist and a professor weigh in on win by Peterborough's first female MP

BY SARAH FRANK

After the Conservative's 12-year run in Peterborough, the riding's newest MP will head to Ottawa wearing red party stripes.

How did MP-elect Maryam Monsef manage to take back the reins after more than a decade? Campaign affiliates and

Peterborough political junkies are offering up different perspectives on the election win, saying the riding's bellwether history, a national push for change and strategic voting all worked in Ms Monsef's favour.

A group of political activists also say they've been working to determine the best way to boot the Conservatives from Peterborough since 2012.

All agree MP Monsef has a genuine personality that resonated with the nearly 30,000 people who cast a ballot in her favour.

Trent University history professor David Sheinin says a 30-year-old woman from Afghanistan may not have had as good of a chance at the polls 10 years ago, so Ms Monsef's election is reflection of a change in Peterborough.

He says there were a couple of main factors at play in the election, the first being a strong national message. Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper severely underestimated how badly off many Canadians feel they are, he says.



MP-elect Maryam Monsef greets supporters on Monday night (Oct. 19). LANCE ANDERSON | THIS WEEK

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Continued on Page 3

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