

POLITICS

Trudeau, Scheer talk trade in first call

New Conservative leader Andrew Scheer's victory speech was peppered with attacks on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

But on Sunday, the two spoke by phone in the aftermath of Scheer's win, one that now also makes him the official Opposition leader in the House of Commons.

Trudeau called Scheer from Italy, where the prime minister is currently on a state visit following the G7 summit.

"They discussed issues of importance including making Parliament work for Canadians and the important relationship with the United States," read a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

"They agreed to meet in person in the coming weeks."

Despite the proforma call, the Liberals have not wasted time attacking Scheer, either, painting him as an extremist, with his call for an end to federal funding for universities that don't guarantee free speech on campus.

They also released a new video about positive politics Sunday, drawing on a two-year old speech from Trudeau to showcase him as an inclusive leader, in an apparent contrast to Scheer's socially conservative roots.

It's likely to be some time before Scheer and Trudeau face off there however, as the prime minister is out of the country for most of the coming week.

Still, Scheer is expected to lead off question period on Monday, after a morning meeting with the 98 other members of Parliament who make up his caucus.

Current NDP leader Tom Mulcair posted his congratulations to Scheer in a message on social media.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Andrew Scheer, centre, newly elected leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, celebrates with his rival Maxime Bernier, left, following his win at the party's convention in Toronto on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

Moment of youth for Tories

LEADERSHIP RACE

Can Andrew Scheer lure young voters from Liberals?

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

With Andrew Scheer, the Conservative Party picked the youngest leadership choice available this past weekend, but it's unclear whether that will be enough to attract key younger voters.

At 38, Scheer is younger than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

or current NDP Leader Tom Mulcair.

The Conservatives lost in 2015, not because their core support left them but because a new crop of 18- to 34-year-old voters turned out to support Justin Trudeau.

James Hawkes, 25, is among Scheer's supporters. Joined by fellow party members in Saskatoon, where he is involved with campus Conservatives, he watched his preferred candidate come to victory. Hawkes has no doubt Scheer will be able to bridge the generational divide.

"He's the closest thing we have had to a millennial in any of the major parties," he said. "Andrew is going to appeal to

“Despite Andrew Scheer's appearance and age they picked the wrong candidate to appeal to millennials. **Quito Maggi**

youth, definitely." Hawkes said millennials don't all think the same way and Scheer's pledge to remove funding from universities that don't protect freedom of speech will have broad appeal.

"They don't feel they're allowed to speak about what matters to them and their beliefs on various topics."

Quito Maggi, president of Mainstreet Research, polled extensively on the race. He said even though Scheer is younger

he's unlikely to tap into the youth vote.

"Despite Andrew Scheer's appearance and age they picked the wrong candidate to appeal to millennials," said Maggi. "With his ideology, with his policy background, I don't think he is going to have an easy time."

He said Scheer's social conservatism — even if he is committing not to legislate on it — is going to be a tough sell for younger voters.

Maggi said he believes Scheer is banking on those voters staying home or gravitating to a new NDP leader in 2019.

"He's not interested in increasing the size of the Conservative tent," he said. "There is no real interest in reaching out."

Scheer, a father of five, had one message to younger voters in his acceptance speech Saturday night.

"We have to get a grip on this out-of-control spending. It's not fair to future generations of Canada," he told supporters. "I cannot allow Justin Trudeau to do the same thing to my five children that his father did to my generation."

ITALY

PM to raise residential school apology with Pope

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to raise reconciliation with indigenous peoples, the global fight against climate change and the importance of religious and cultural diversity when he meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Monday.

There, he will also ask the pontiff to issue a formal apology in Canada for the role of the Catholic Church in the residential school system.

The Truth and Reconcilia-

tion Commission included the demand for a papal apology — to survivors, their families and communities — among the 94 recommendations in its report on the dark history and legacy of residential schools.

The Liberal government has promised to act on all of them.

Trudeau, in Rome this week following his participation at the NATO and G7 summits, wants to promote trade and other ties with Italy.

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150 WAYS of looking at Canada



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