

Alberta Conservatives win anemic landslide

by UPI

EDMONTON, Alberta -- A Canadian record low number of voters in Alberta gave the Conservative party's 37-year-old dynasty a landslide return to provincial power, reports said. The 41.3 percent turnout Monday beat the previous low in 2004, when turnout was 44.7 percent, the Edmonton Journal reported Wednesday. Premier Ed Stelmach's Conservatives won a 72-seat majority in the provincial legislature, while the Liberals fell to nine seats from 16. The socialist New Democrat Party also shrank from four seats to two, and the right-wing Wildrose Alliance lost its only seat, the newspaper said. Wildrose Alliance leader Paul Hinman has asked election officials for a recount in his riding, which he lost to Conservative Bryce Jacobs by 39 votes, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., reported. Rod Love, a veteran conservative political strategist, told the newspaper Albertans have become accustomed to the good life under Conservative rule. "Newcomers come to Alberta and they see low taxes and the Rocky Mountains and the commute is only 23 minutes and their attitude is: 'What are you people complaining about?'" Love said.

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