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Thursday, October 22, 2015

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Chong wins with 51% of the vote

By **Melanie Hennessey**
Special to The IFP



Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong celebrates his victory Monday night as he and wife Carrie are welcomed by a cheering crowd at Judy's Restaurant in Brisbane.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

Wellington-Halton Hills will remain Tory blue after incumbent MP Michael Chong cruised to another victory in Monday night's federal election.

The Conservative stronghold riding once again voiced its support for the 43-year-old politician, giving him 51 per cent of the vote, or 32,482 ballots in favour. Liberal contender Don Trant came in second with 23,279 votes (36 per cent).

Chong celebrated his win on Monday evening at Judy's Restaurant in Brisbane alongside his family, campaign team and supporters, including Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

"I want to thank the people of Wellington County and Halton Hills for supporting us through thick and thin through five election campaigns and five terms," he told the cheering crowd.

"Obviously we're disappointed with the results nationally tonight, but here in the riding of Wellington-Halton Hills it looks like we've got over 50 per cent of the vote. That means the majority of people in this riding supported us. I will work my hardest to make sure the people of this riding have their voice heard loud and clear in Ottawa."

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Voter turnout in Wellington-Halton Hills: 71%

By **Melanie Hennessey**
Special to The IFP

Local residents turned out in full force for this week's election, with 63,997 of 89,653 registered electors, or 71 per cent, making their way to the polls.

This is up slightly from the 2011 turnout of 67 per cent. The number of rejected ballots was 185.

Wellington-Halton Hills Return-

ing Officer Tom Gallagher reported that the polls were "exhaustively busy" on Monday, keeping the 650 local poll workers on their toes.

"I can say for absolute certain that all the poll workers were busy and had pretty much a full day with not much of a break in between," he said. "High voter turnout can cause a high degree of stress, but they persevered through long lines and did a fantastic job."

The local team wrapped up at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, and while it was a long day, Gallagher said it went very smoothly, with only a few minor "procedural hiccups" along the way.

Here are the official results in Wellington-Halton Hills:

- Chong: 32,482 (51%)
- Trant: 23,279 (36%)
- Gajerski-Cauley: 5,321 (8%)
- Bouteiller: 2,547 (4%)
- Anstey: 183 (0.3%)



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