

Bloc holds on to North-Shore majority

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Accompanied by his wife Christine Truesdell, re-elected Marc-Aurèle Fortin Bloc MP Serge Menard is happy with the results that he and his re-elected colleague Laval MP Nicole Demers (right) achieved.

NANCY GIRGIS

2004 (59 per cent), I still believe this was a very impressive victory."

The recent wave of Conservative popularity in Quebec had little or no impact in North-Shore as all four Bloc Quebecois incumbents were held on to their ridings with solid majorities on election night.

More than 250 Bloc Quebecois militants were gathered at the Bloc's storefront office on Autoroute 440 to wait for the results on January 23. The candidates hung on until the first candidate, Marc-Aurèle Fortin's Serge Menard, was declared a winner early on. Although he earned nearly 51 per cent support in his riding, Menard admits that he lost some of the popular vote this year due to Tory support. "The Liberals suffered losses due to the scandals but Mr. (Stephen) Harper managed to raise some support in Quebec, which affected my vote," Menard said. "Although I obtained a lower percentage of support as compared to

Further North, Gilles Perron was re-elected in the riding of Rivière-des-Mille-Îles for a fourth mandate. At the end of the night Perron was elected with 26,772 votes. A stunning majority of 16,099. Once more the Conservatives came second. Their candidate Erick Gauthier managed to get 10,173 votes, 7000 votes more from the 2004 elections.

The Conservatives managed to oust the Liberals out of their 12-year government stronghold by forming a minority.

The Bloc Quebecois hopes that such a government will give their party enough leeway to push their agenda. Menard says that a Conservative government will not stop the Bloc from doing their work. "We'll work the way we always worked: issue by issue," Menard added. "If it's in the interest of Quebec, we'll support it; if not, we'll fight it."