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# Grand Falls campaign was won at the doorstep

## Danny Soucy already working on constituents' concerns

**By Jacques-François Levesque**  
The new Grand Falls, Saint-André and Drummond MLA feels his successful election was won on the doors and front lawns of the riding. Danny Soucy, a rookie Progressive Conservative MLA, said he was very pleased with his first election campaign. He said support grew every day by listening carefully to resident's concerns.

"I could not visit everyone, this was impossible because I had decided at the door to door to spend some time with people and talk with them about their concerns and establish new relationships with residents I did not know.

"Through our discussions, people

expressed that they wanted a change and felt that by entering into their home. I was told, 'Danny, we know what kind of person you are and you'll be a good spokesman for us,'" Soucy stated.

The MLA elect said the confidence and support he felt from residents gave him "a great boost" to continue to race up to the last day of the campaign.

"I regret not having met all the people of the constituency but I had to choose, just enter the house or apartment, visit the associations, businesses, farmers and others and seek their support or take the time to talk with these people.... Through the many exchanges, I found their confidence in

me and gave me the strength to follow through," Soucy commented.

Since his Sept. 27 victory, the new elected MLA has not stopped thanking people and has started to work even before the Oct. 12 swearing-in ceremony.

"What I am trying to do is to reach the people who I have already spoken of their concerns and associations to have an appointment to discuss their situations that was raised before and during the election campaign. Before I have my official office in Grand Falls, people can always reach me at 473-5888. Someone will reply or your message will be automatically transferred to my cell," he said.

The new MLA said that he was very satisfied with the results and with the riding's voters' turnout, which was 74.6 per cent.

"One thing is certain I am pleased with the number of people who went to the polls. I am very pleased with the polling stations that were previously almost always in favour of the Liberals and we have achieved in much better in the Portage area and in the town of Grand Falls. I thank also the people of Drummond and St. André for their trust and support. I greatly appreciate the confidence that all these people gave me because we were two candidates who were well known in the region. We have accomplished many things, but people had to choose between of us and here today, people voted for particular reasons. It was their right and it is the democracy which has expressed it self," Soucy said.

The Victoria Star asked Soucy if he hopes to be appointed to the new Conservative cabinet. Premier David Alward has committed to limiting his cabinet appointments to 15 MLAs as a cost-saving measure.

"Although it would be a lie if I said no. Yes, I want a ministry, I would love that, but it's not me who decides and this is not a team that decides either. It is David Alward who decides, because he's the leader. I know Mr. Alward well and I know he'll make the best decisions for the province of New Brunswick.

"He will make the best decision to ensure that MLAs who are appointed to the cabinet, are the best people for the government to begin to make changes and make the best decisions to improve the situation of our province. I have much confidence in Mr. Alward. If I have no ministry, I'll respect his decision and I will work with the group, either I am a MLA or cabinet minister," said Soucy.

Before he is sworn in, Soucy will meet Ron Ouellette, defeated Liberal candidate for a smooth transition and the continuity of files.

"Mr. Ouellette came to congratulate me on election night and I asked him if I could share his knowledge about the records that he had on hand. I hope to meet soon," he said.

### WHAT A RUSH!



Tobique-Mactaquac MP Mike Allen was among those who attended the Zig Zag's official opening last Saturday. The new business is located at the Malabean tourism Centre in Grand Falls. Allen, who zipped along the cable above the falls alongside newly-elected Grand Falls, St. André and Drummond MLA Danny Soucy, enjoyed the experience. More photos and a story in next week's edition. (Madeleine Leclerc photo)



### Victory celebration

Marcel Michaud, of St. André, right, raises the arm of newly-elected Grand Falls, Drummond and St. André MLA Danny Soucy in celebration of his election victory on Sept. 27. (Madeleine Leclerc photo)