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Jagmeet Singh, MPP for Bramalea-Gore-Malton, was named the leader of the federal New Democratic Party on Oct. 1.

Singh wins federal NDP leadership

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From a political unknown just six years ago to leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP), Jagmeet Singh is hoping to continue his meteoric rise and add another first to his resume by becoming prime minister.

Like the many monumental milestones that have to date distinguished his relatively short career as an elected official, if Singh finds himself residing in 24 Sussex Dr. roughly two years from now it would be another Canadian political first orchestrated by the 38-year-old.

The Bramalea-Gore-Malton New Democrat MPP won the party's federal leadership race Oct. 1 on the first ballot.

Singh received 35,266 votes, capturing more than half of the votes cast.

Timmins MP Charlie Angus had 12,705 votes, Manitoba MP Niki Ashton received 11,374 and Quebec MP Guy Caron had 6,164.

It was only six years ago Singh won a seat in the Ontario legislature, becoming the first provincial New Democrat to win a seat in the riding of Bramalea-Gore-Malton.

That win also made him the first turban-wearing Sikh to serve as an MPP and in 2015 he became the first such politician to be named deputy leader of a party.

Now this past Sunday, Singh, whose religious beliefs are as visible as his brown skin, became the first visible minority to lead a major Canadian political party.

"I don't have the words to capture this journey," Singh told supporters and other New Democrats gathered in Toronto for the vote. "It's an unbelievably profound honour."

A party executive suggested Singh's leadership campaign and win signals a renewal for the party and politics in Canada.

"You have done our party incredibly proud," said Andrea Horwath, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party.

Singh, who was a criminal lawyer before entering politics, is media savvy, articulate and charismatic.

He entered the federal leadership race relatively late and still managed to lap established members of Parliament vying for the post.

Singh will now try to turn his personal appeal

and the political platform that won over New Democrats into a national campaign capable of restoring the party's opposition status in the House, if not notching him another political first by unseating Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government.

"I'm officially launching my campaign to be the next prime minister of Canada," he said after his leadership-win.

The federal New Democrat leadership was left vacant when Tom Mulcair failed to get rank-and-file support following the party's fall from official opposition status in the last election.

Singh does not have a seat in the house and said Sunday he would immediately resign his provincial seat to lead the federal party.

The Ontario Liberal government is not expected to call a byelection, so close to next year's provincial election, to fill the vacated Bramalea-Gore-Malton seat.

The constituency office would remain open to serve constituents until the next election, according to a spokesperson for the Ontario New Democrats.