

= New Zealand Labour Party leadership election , 2011 =

The New Zealand Labour Party leadership election , 2011 was held on 13 December 2011 to choose the thirteenth leader of the New Zealand Labour Party . A deputy leader and a senior and a junior whip were also elected . Following the Labour Party 's loss in the 2011 general election , leader Phil Goff and deputy leader Annette King resigned , prompting the leadership election , which was conducted as a secret ballot of the Labour caucus .

David Cunliffe , David Shearer and David Parker stood for the leadership , and Nanaia Mahuta and Grant Robertson contested the deputy position . Cunliffe and Mahuta ran as a ticket . During the campaign Parker pulled out of the race and endorsed Shearer . Shearer and Robertson won the votes for their respective positions . Chris Hipkins and Darien Fenton were chosen as the senior and junior whips , respectively .

= = Background = =

At the 2008 general election , the Fifth Labour Government , led by Helen Clark , was defeated by John Key 's National Party . Following Clark 's election @-@ night resignation , Phil Goff was unanimously elected as the party 's leader , with Annette King as deputy , and Darren Hughes and Steve Chadwick as the senior and junior whips , respectively . The party lost more support in the 26 November 2011 general election ; its popular vote dipped to 27 % ? its worst @-@ ever result under the mixed @-@ member proportional representation system ? and its number of MPs was reduced from forty @-@ three to thirty @-@ four . On 29 November 2011 , Goff and King announced their resignations , effective 13 December . New whips also had to be chosen because Rick Barker ( who replaced Hughes as the senior whip in April 2011 , following Hughes leaving Parliament ) and Chadwick were not re @-@ elected to Parliament .

= = Candidates = =

Former Cabinet ministers David Cunliffe ( MP for New Lynn ) and Nanaia Mahuta ( Hauraki @-@ Waikato ) ran as a ticket for the leadership and deputy leadership , respectively . Former minister and list MP David Parker and Mount Albert by @-@ election , 2009 winner David Shearer were candidates for the party leadership , and Wellington Central representative Grant Robertson sought the deputy leadership . Shane Jones considered standing for the deputy leadership , but in the end did not run . Parker stated his preference for Robertson as deputy leader . Shearer did not indicate a preferred deputy .

Shearer was viewed as unlikely to win the election ; Claire Trevett of The New Zealand Herald originally expected that only Cunliffe and Parker would run for the leader 's role , and The Dominion Post 's Vernon Small wrote that " Mr Shearer 's bid is seen as a way to lift his profile " . Political commentator Bryce Edwards said that Cunliffe was the more appealing candidate to the public , and described Parker and Robertson as " sort of Phil Goff clones " .

= = Campaign = =

Labour Party president Moira Coatsworth stated that the leadership contest would be a " robust contest of ideas " , and suggested to the party 's caucus that a series of meetings with party members be held around New Zealand . These were held from 6 to 11 December in six major cities ? Hamilton , Palmerston North , Wellington , Christchurch , Dunedin and Auckland . The party membership was then encouraged to give feedback to the party caucus , who would vote in the election . On 30 November Cunliffe , Parker and Shearer were interviewed by Mark Sainsbury on the current affairs programme Close Up . The television show held a text message poll in which viewers voted for their preferred leader of the party . Over 7 @, @ 500 people took part ; Shearer received 50 % of the support , Cunliffe 31 % and Parker 19 % . The following day , Parker pulled out of the leadership race and put his support behind Shearer . Shearer and Cunliffe were interviewed

by Guyon Espiner on political talkshow Q + A on 4 December . During the interview , both candidates indicated their support for the introduction of a capital gains tax , which was a key part of Labour 's tax policy during the 2011 general election campaign . Both also disagreed with the 2008 Employment Relations Amendment Act ( 90 @-@ day workplace trial ) , and wanted New Zealand to invest further in research and development ; Shearer mentioned striving for a more green economy . On 9 December , Horizon Research released a demographically @-@ weighted survey which found that 35 @. @ 4 % of adult New Zealanders supported Shearer 's bid for the leadership , and 19 @. @ 9 % backed Cunliffe .

= = Outcome and aftermath = =

The election took place on 13 December 2011 and comprised a secret ballot of the thirty @-@ four Labour caucus members , meaning a candidate had to receive the support of eighteen MPs to win . Shearer was elected the party leader , Robertson the deputy leader , Chris Hipkins the senior whip and Darien Fenton the junior whip . Upon election , Shearer stated , " I am a fresh face for Labour and I represent a fresh start for New Zealand . " Espiner reported that Shearer received about twenty @-@ two of the thirty @-@ four votes for the leadership position , and a 3 News source claimed a similar number ; however , Coatsworth stipulated that the election was secret and that she was the only person who had access to the ballot papers , which were destroyed . Robertson and Jacinda Ardern publicly supported Shearer , and Carmel Sepuloni backed Cunliffe .

On 19 December , Shearer announced a reshuffle of the Labour front bench ? Parker replaced Cunliffe in the finance portfolio and number three ranking , Ardern took the number four spot as social development spokesperson , while Cunliffe moved down to number five and gained the economic development portfolio . Clayton Cosgrove ( number six ) became responsible for state owned enterprises and commerce , Jones ( number seven ) took regional development and fisheries and Mahuta ( number eight ) picked up education . Shearer himself took the science and innovation portfolio , while Robertson was made environment spokesperson .