

FEDERAL POLITICS

Report

EXCLUSIVE TO CANADIAN PRESS

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Représentant canadien de

- **Conservatives lead by 10 points!**
- **Canadians satisfied with Harper government**
- **Stephen Harper will keep his promises**
- **Harper's first budget appreciated**
- **Ken Dryden and Bob Rae in the lead**

DETAILED REPORT

Methodology

This Leger Marketing survey was conducted among **1,503** Canadian adults from May 2 to May 7, 2006. The maximum margin of error for a sample of this size is $\pm 2.6\%$, 19 times out of 20. Using data from Statistics Canada, final results were weighted according to age, gender, region and mother tongue.






1. Conservatives have a 10-Point Lead Over the Liberals

If elections had been held between May 2 and May 7, 2006, the Conservative Party would have obtained 40% of the vote, the Liberal Party of Canada 30%, the New Democratic Party 13%, the Bloc Québécois 9% and the Green Party 7%. When elections were held last January, Conservatives obtained 36% of the vote, Liberals 30%, New Democrats 17%, Bloc supporters 10% and Green supporters 4%. The day before these elections, Leger Marketing conducted its last poll for the Canadian Press and produced the following results: CP 36%, LPC 29%, NDP 17%, BQ 11% and GP 4%.

Conservatives dominate in all provinces except Ontario where the Liberals lead by 38% - 34% against the Conservatives. Bloc supporters obtain 36% against 29% for the Conservatives. Stephen Harper's party obtains its highest score in Alberta with 65%.

Table 1 – FEDERAL VOTING INTENTIONS

Question: If federal elections were held today, for which of the following political parties would you be most likely to vote for? Would it be for...? (If the respondent did not have an opinion the following question was asked): Even if you have not yet made up your mind and federal elections were held today, which political party would you be most likely to vote for?

	Before Distribution n=1503	After Distribution n=1267	AP n=100	QC n=402	ONT n=601	PR n=125	AB n=125	BC n=150
	33%	40%	52%	29%	34%	47%	65%	44%
	25%	30%	30%	22%	38%	35%	16%	29%
	11%	13%	12%	5%	17%	14%	8%	20%
	8%	9%	-	36%	-	-	-	-
	5%	7%	4%	4%	8%	4%	9%	7%
Other	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	-	1%	-
Abstain/Spoil ballot	6%							
Don't know	7%							
Refusal	3%							

- Distribution of undecided is proportional.

2. Canadians Satisfied with Harper Government

Nearly two-thirds of Canadians (62%) say they are satisfied with Stephen Harper's government, while 27% say they are dissatisfied. Satisfaction is more evident in Alberta (77%) and in Québec (72%). There are even more satisfied (49%) among the Liberal electorate than dissatisfied (42%).

Table 2 – Level of Satisfaction

Question: *Are you VERY SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED or VERY DISSATISFIED with Stephen Harper's government?*

(n=1503)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	BC
Satisfied	62%	67%	72%	54%	58%	77%	57%
Dissatisfied	27%	27%	21%	31%	29%	11%	34%
Don't know/Refusal	11%	6%	6%	14%	13%	11%	9%

3. More than Half of Canadians Expect Stephen Harper to Keep his Promises

52% of Canadians believe Stephen Harper will keep the promises he made during the last election campaign, whereas 35% do not and 11% do not know. (See Table 3)

Moreover, 51% of the population are satisfied with the Harper government's first budget, whereas 26% are dissatisfied and 9% do not know. It should be noted that survey interviews were conducted after the budget was tabled on May 7. (See Table 4)

Table 3 –HARPER WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES

Question: *Do you think Stephen Harper will keep the promises he made during the last federal election campaign?*

(n=1503)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	CB
Yes	52%	63%	63%	42%	50%	65%	49%
No	35%	28%	29%	43%	32%	23%	34%
Don't know/Refusal	13%	9%	8%	14%	18%	12%	17%

Table 4 – SATISFACTION WITH THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET

Question: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the Harper government's first budget?

(n=1503)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	BC
Yes	51%	53%	57%	45%	48%	62%	50%
No	26%	33%	21%	29%	25%	18%	29%
Not aware of it	11%	10%	16%	11%	9%	16%	10%
Don't know/Refusal	12%	5%	6%	15%	18%	12%	11%

4. Dryden and Rae in the Lead

Though the ten first candidates officially joined the Liberal Party of Canada leadership race by May 2, only two of them stand out according to the Canadian population. Ken Dryden was chosen as the first candidate by 13% of the population and Bob Rae was second with 11%. They are followed by Stéphane Dion with 7%, Michael Ignatieff with 6%, Gerard Kennedy with 5%, Carolyn Bennett with 3%, Scott Brison with 2%, Joe Volpe and Martha Hall Findley with respectively 1% and Maurizio Bevilacqua with less than 1%.

There is little difference among Liberal supporters when ranking the most well known candidates of the Liberal leadership race. Gerard Kennedy gains 3 points and overtakes Michael Ignatieff, Joe Volpe gains 2% and Carolyn Bennett loses 1 point. The following table shows the position of the different candidates.

Table 5 – CANDIDATES' POSITION IN THE LPC LEADERSHIP RACE

CANDIDATES	POPULATION	LIBERALS
Ken Dryden	13%	14%
Bob Rae	11%	12%
Stéphane Dion	7%	8%
Michael Ignatieff	6%	7%
Gerard Kennedy	5%	8%
Carolyn Bennett	3%	2%
Scott Brison	2%	3%
Joe Volpe	1%	3%
Martha Hall Findley	1%	1%
Maurizio Bevilacqua	0%	0%






Canadians do not seem interested in the leadership race since 51% along with 41% of Liberal voters did not have an opinion.

5. Liberals Would Lose Points with Rae and Ignatieff

If Bob Rae or Michael Ignatieff led the Liberal Party of Canada, either one would only obtain 28% of the vote, whereas the Conservative Party would obtain 42%. In Ontario, the Liberals under Bob Rae would obtain 34% versus 39% for the CP and the Liberals under Ignatieff would obtain 33% against 37% for the CP.

Table 6 – FEDERAL VOTING INTENTIONS: IGNATIEFF AND RAE SCENARIOS

Question: If either Bob Rae or Michael Ignatieff were the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and elections were held today, for which political party would you be most likely to vote? Would it be for...?

	Actual n=1241	Ignatieff n=1194	Rae n=1200
	40%	42%	42%
	30%	28%	28%
	13%	14%	15%
	9%	9%	9%
	7%	7%	7%

- Distribution of undecided is proportional to voting intentions.

Questionnaire

PC1

PC1. If FEDERAL elections were held today, for which of the following political parties would you be most likely to vote for, would it be for ...?

READ - ONE MENTION POSSIBLE

Rotation => 5

...The Liberal Party of Canada	01	=> +2
...The Conservative Party	02	=> +2
...The New Democratic Party	03	=> +2
...The Bloc Québécois	04	=> +2
...The Green Party	05	=> +2
Other party	96	=> +2
Would not vote / Would spoil ballot	97	=> +2
Don't know	98	
Refusal	99	=> +2

PC1R

PC1R. Even if you have not yet made up your mind and federal elections were held today, which political party would you be most likely to vote for? Would it be for...

READ - ONE MENTION POSSIBLE

Rotation => 5

...The Liberal Party of Canada	01
...The Conservative Party	02
...The New Democratic Party	03
...The Bloc Québécois	04
...The Green Party	05
Other party	96
Would not vote / Would spoil ballot	97
Don't know	98
Refusal	99

PC3

PC3. Among the following candidates who have joined the Liberal leadership race, who seems more capable of leading the Liberal Party of Canada? Is it....

READ (ROTATION)

Rotation => 10

...Michael Ignatieff	01
...Bob Rae	02
...Ken Dryden	03
...Stéphane Dion	04
...Gerard Kennedy	05
...Carolyn Bennett	06
...Scott Brison	07
...Joe Volpe	08
...Maurizio Bevilacqua	09
...Martha Hall Findley	10
Don't know	98
Refusal	99

PC4

PC4. If Michael Ignatieff were leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and elections were held today, for which political party would you be most likely to vote? Would it be for...?

READ (ROTATION)

Rotation => 5

...The Liberal Party of Canada led by Michael Ignatieff.....	01
...The Conservative Party led by Stephen Harper.....	02
...The New Democratic Party led by Jack Layton	03
...The Bloc Québécois led by Gilles Duceppe	04
...The Green Party led by Jim Harris.....	05
Don't know	98
Refusal.....	99

PC5

PC5. If Bob Rae were leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and elections were held today, for which political party would you be most likely to vote? Would it be for...?

READ (ROTATION)

Rotation => 5

...The Liberal Party of Canada led by Bob Rae.....	01
...The Conservative Party led by Stephen Harper.....	02
...The New Democratic Party led by Jack Layton	03
...The Bloc Québécois led by Gilles Duceppe	04
...The Green Party led by Jim Harris.....	05
Don't know	98
Refusal.....	99

PC6

PC6. Are you VERY SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED, or VERY DISSATISFIED with Stephen Harper's government?

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Completely dissatisfied.....	4
Don't know	8
Refusal.....	9

PC7

PC7. Do you think that Stephen Harper will keep the promises he made during the last federal election campaign?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3
Refusal.....	9

PC8

PC8 . Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the Harper government's first budget?

Satisfied	1
Dissatisfied	2
Not aware of it	7
Don't know	8
Refused	9
