



## **THE LEGER FEDERAL ELECTION MONITOR A Bi-Monthly Tracking of National Public Opinion**

### *CONSERVATIVES WIDEN THE GAP*

- *Conservatives lead by 14 points*
- *Satisfaction with the federal government reaches 57%*
- *Harper is seen as the best prime minister by 35% of Canadians. Dion (12%) trails Jack Layton (14%)*

**UNDER EMBARGO**

**RELEASE DAY AND TIME: MARCH 28, 2007, 6h00 P.M. EDT**

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## **DETAILED REPORT**

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### **Methodology**

This Leger Marketing survey was conducted with **1,500** adult Canadians between March 20 and March 25, 2007. A sample of this size yields a maximum margin of error of **± 2.6%**, 19 times out of 20. The data presented here were weighted by age, gender, region and language according to the latest Statistics Canada information.

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## 1. The Conservative Party Leads by 14 points

If federal elections had been held at the end of March, Conservatives would have had a 14-point lead over their Liberal rivals. In Canada, Stephen Harper's party obtains 41% of voting intentions versus 27% for the Liberals, 14% for the NDP, 9% for the Bloc Québécois (36% in Québec) and 6% for the Green Party. This is an important gain for the Conservatives; voting intentions for this party were tied with the Liberals barely three months ago. The Conservative Party dominates voting intentions in all regions of the country west of the Ottawa River. In Québec, Liberals and Conservatives are in a dead heat (25% and 26% respectively), some ten points behind the Bloc Québécois (36%). The Atlantic Provinces are the only area where the Liberals lead with 39% versus 25% for the NDP and 23% for the Conservatives.

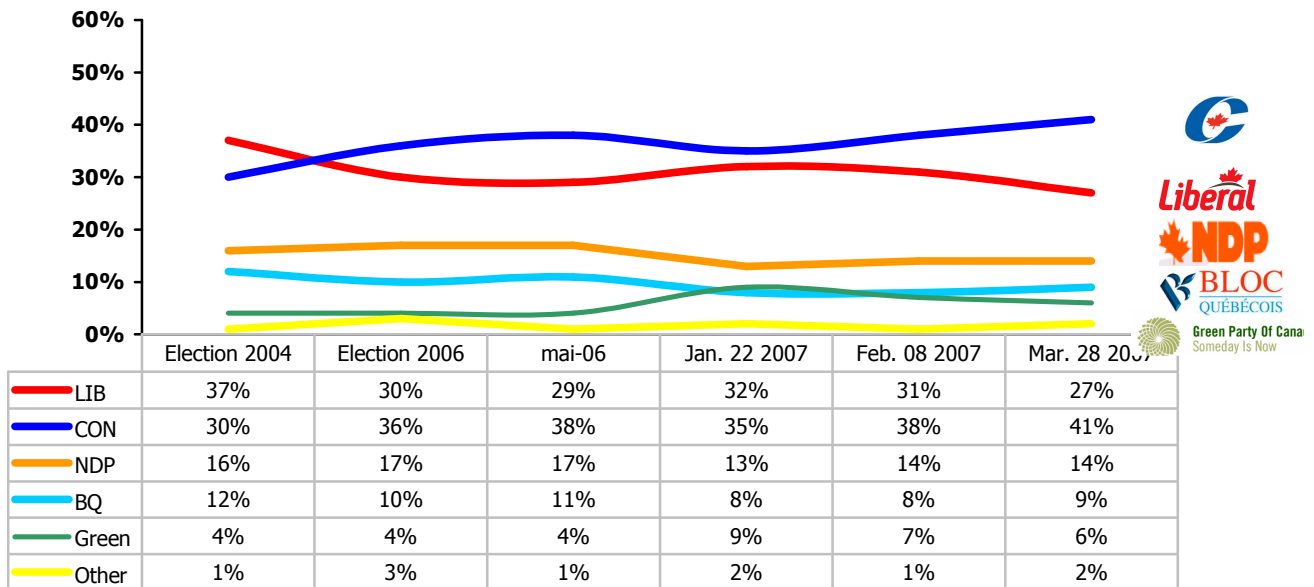
**Table 1 – FEDERAL VOTING INTENTIONS**

*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, which political party would you be most likely to vote for?*

	<b>Before Distribution</b> n=1500	<b>After Distribution</b> n=1210	<b>AP</b> n=81	<b>QC</b> n=353	<b>ONT</b> n=464	<b>PR</b> n=84	<b>AB</b> n=106	<b>BC</b> n=122
	33%	41%	<b>23%</b>	<b>26%</b>	44%	49%	<b>70%</b>	46%
	22%	27%	<b>39%</b>	25%	<b>32%</b>	26%	18%	17%
	12%	14%	<b>25%</b>	<b>10%</b>	14%	14%	7%	<b>25%</b>
	7%	9%	<b>0%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	5%	6%	9%	<b>3%</b>	8%	10%	4%	8%
<b>Other</b>	2%	2%	<b>5%</b>	1%	2%	2%	0%	4%
<b>Abstain/Spoil ballot</b>	5%							
<b>Don't know</b>	12%							
<b>Refusal</b>	3%							

- Distribution of undecided is proportional.

Graph 1: Evolution of voting intentions in Canada



## 2. Harper Benefits from High Levels of Satisfaction

Nearly six out of ten Canadians (57%) say they are satisfied with the Conservative government led by Stephen Harper. Satisfaction rates are in the majority for all provinces except the Atlantic Provinces where satisfaction reaches 48%. Second and third lower scores are found in Ontario (53%) and the Prairies (52%). Satisfaction with the Harper government is highest in Quebec (59%), in British Columbia (62%) and in Alberta (69%).

**Table 2 – SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT**

**Question:** *Would you say you are VERY SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED or VERY DISSATISFIED with the Conservative government led by Stephen Harper?*

(n=1500)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL SATISFIED</b>	57%	48%	59%	53%	52%	69%	62%
... Very satisfied	10%	6%	6%	13%	9%	18%	6%
... Somewhat satisfied	47%	42%	53%	40%	43%	50%	57%
<b>TOTAL DISSATISFIED</b>	34%	51%	33%	35%	36%	24%	29%
... Somewhat dissatisfied	21%	30%	21%	22%	23%	18%	15%
... Very dissatisfied	13%	21%	12%	13%	13%	7%	14%
<b>Don't know</b>	6%	0%	6%	8%	7%	5%	8%
<b>Refusal</b>	3%	2%	2%	5%	5%	2%	1%

## 3. Best Prime Minister: Harper 35%, Layton 14%, Dion 12%

Among the federal party leaders, Stephen Harper is seen as the one who would make the best prime minister by 35% of Canadians. Canadians judge Stéphane Dion harshly with only 12% of them seeing him as the best prime minister. The Liberal leader obtains two points less than his NDP opponent, Jack Layton (14%).

**Table 3 – BEST PRIME MINISTER**

**Question:** *In your opinion, which of the following political personalities would make the best Prime Minister of Canada? Would it be ... ?*

(n=1500)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	BC
... Stephen Harper	35%	21%	31%	35%	37%	58%	33%
... Jack Layton	14%	23%	15%	13%	10%	6%	19%
... Stéphane Dion	12%	15%	14%	13%	10%	6%	9%
... Gilles Duceppe	5%	3%	17%	1%	0%	1%	1%
... Elizabeth May	4%	6%	1%	5%	4%	2%	2%
... None of the above	13%	17%	9%	15%	13%	10%	12%
<b>Don't know</b>	15%	14%	11%	15%	22%	15%	21%
<b>Refusal</b>	3%	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%

#### 4. A Budget with Little Influence on Quality of Life, According to 62% of Canadians

For most Canadians (62%), the federal budget presented by Jim Flaherty on March 19 will have no impact on the quality of their personal life. A proportion of 13%, however, think that the budget will improve their quality of life and 8% think it will deteriorate.

**Table 4 – IMPACT OF BUDGET**

**Question:** *The federal Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty, tabled his budget in the House of Commons on Monday, March 19. In your opinion, will the quality of your personal life IMPROVE or DETERIORATE with this budget or the budget WILL NOT HAVE AN IMPACT on the quality of your personal life?*

(n=1500)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	BC
... Improve	13%	7%	13%	15%	15%	15%	9%
... Deteriorate	8%	13%	4%	9%	13%	7%	9%
... No impact	62%	65%	67%	59%	58%	55%	63%
Don't know	15%	12%	15%	13%	11%	21%	18%
Refusal	2%	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%

#### 5. Canadians Do Not Think the Budget will End Constitutional Disputes

According to 68% of Canadians, the last federal budget will not put an end to constitutional disputes between Québec and the rest of Canada. On this question, respondents from Quebec and those from the other provinces are of the same opinion.

**Table 5 – END OF CONSTITUTIONAL QUARRELS?**

**Question:** *In your opinion, will the federal budget end the constitutional quarrels between Québec and the rest of Canada?*

(n=1500)	Total	Region					
		AP	QC	ON	PR	AB	BC
Yes	11%	15%	15%	9%	16%	8%	8%
No	68%	67%	70%	68%	63%	66%	71%
Don't know	19%	16%	14%	21%	18%	25%	20%
Refusal	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%