



# Conservatives Extend Lead Over Liberals to Ten Points

*A new election would mirror the results of the 2008 federal ballot, which gave the Tories their second minority mandate.*

[TORONTO – Oct. 2, 2009] – A fall federal election would provide virtually the same results of the 2008 ballot, with the governing Conservatives enjoying a ten-point advantage over the opposition Liberals, according to the Canadian Political Pulse, conducted by Angus Reid Strategies in partnership with the *Toronto Star*.

## Voting Intention

The online survey of a representative national sample shows that 37 per cent of decided voters would cast a ballot for the Conservative candidate in their riding. The Liberals are a distant second at 27 per cent, down two points in one week.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) is third with 17 per cent, followed by the Bloc Québécois with 11 per cent, and the Green Party with six per cent.

These results virtually mirror the outcome of the October 2008 election, with every one of Canada's main federal parties sitting about one percentage point away from their totals in the last federal ballot.

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 37%, Lib. 27%, NDP 17%, BQ 11%, Grn. 6%**
- **The Tories are ahead in Western Canada, and have a 14-point advantage over the Grits in Ontario.**
- **Canadians virtually even on whether Parliament is working well or poorly**
- **63% think an election will make no difference to the way Parliament works**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From September 29 to September 30, 2009, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,000 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

## CONTACT:

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## Regional Breakdowns

The Conservatives have hit the 50 per cent mark in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and continue to dominate in their traditional stronghold of Alberta (61%).

In Ontario, which saw a close race earlier this year in the first weeks of Michael Ignatieff's tenure as Liberal leader, the Tories now hold a 14-point edge over the Grits (44% to 30%).

British Columbia, where the Liberals made some gains in the spring, now finds the NDP in second place with 28 per cent, with the Grits five points behind (23%). The Conservatives (42%) remain in first place.

In Quebec, support for the sovereignist Bloc is up from the last election (41%), but the Liberals have fallen below the 30 per cent threshold (27%). The Tories are third (14%), followed by the NDP (13%).

## Parliament

Canadians are divided in their assessment of Parliament, with 46 per cent thinking it is working well (6% very well, 40% moderately well) while 43 per cent believe it is working poorly (23% moderately poorly, 20% very poorly). A majority of respondents in British Columbia (51%) and Alberta (54%) hold negative views.

Nonetheless, three-in-five Canadians (63%) believe an election will make no difference to how well Parliament works, a view shared by a majority of respondents in every Canadian province. Just 12 per cent believe Parliament will work better after an election, while one-in-twenty (5%) think it will work worse.

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### Canadian Political Pulse - TREND

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Sept. 29-30	Sept. 23-24	<i>2008 Election</i>
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>
<b>New Democratic Party</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
<b>Other party</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

### Canadian Political Pulse - REGIONS

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>New Democratic Party</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Other party</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>

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### Canadian Political Pulse – PARLIAMENT

We currently have a minority government in Ottawa. Do you think Parliament is working or not working?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Parliament is working very well	6%	6%	5%	10%	5%	5%	4%
Parliament is working moderately well	40%	31%	38%	43%	36%	45%	52%
Parliament is working moderately poorly	23%	27%	34%	24%	26%	18%	15%
Parliament is working very poorly	20%	24%	20%	4%	23%	15%	27%
Not sure	11%	12%	3%	18%	10%	17%	1%

### Canadian Political Pulse – PARLIAMENT

There has been a lot of speculation that there will be a federal election this fall. How do you think parliament will change if there is an election?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Parliament will work better after an election	12%	12%	6%	3%	16%	9%	13%
An election will make no difference to how well Parliament works	63%	67%	63%	55%	61%	67%	60%
Parliament will work worse after an election	5%	4%	7%	15%	6%	3%	2%
Not sure	20%	17%	23%	27%	17%	20%	25%

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*Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.*

*Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panels are maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.*

*Angus Reid Strategies, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.*

*[http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.10.15\\_Election.pdf](http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.10.15_Election.pdf)*

*Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*[http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.03.28\\_Anniversary\\_1.pdf](http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.03.28_Anniversary_1.pdf)  
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*More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>*

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**

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