CANADIAN POLITICAL PULSE

Conservatives Lead by Seven Points in Canada; Bloc Québécois Gains

Party leaders get little traction after the Helena Guergis resignation and the Speaker's decision on Afghanistan detainees.

[TORONTO – May 3, 2010] – The Conservative Party maintains the upper hand in Canada's federal political scene, but has lost some ground in Ontario, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

Voting Intention

Across the country, 35 per cent of decided voters (unchanged since late March) would cast a ballot for the Conservative candidate in their riding if a new federal election took place today.

The Liberal Party is second with 28 per cent (-1), two points ahead of the proportion of the vote that the party received in the October 2008 federal election.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) is third with 19 per cent (-1), followed by the Bloc Québécois with 11 per cent (+2), and the Green Party with seven per cent (=).

KEY FINDINGS

➤ **Voting Intention: Con. 35%, Lib. 28%, NDP 19%, BQ 11%, Grn. 7%.**

➤ **Approval Rating: Layton 31%, Harper 29%, Ignatieff 14%.**

➤ **Momentum: Layton -2, Harper -21, Ignatieff -25.**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From April 28 to April 29, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,014 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.

Regional Breakdowns

The Tories remain the most popular party in Alberta (62%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (47%), and have greatly improved their standing in British Columbia (going from 40% in late March to 51% in late April). In Ontario, the Liberals are now three points ahead of the Tories (37% to 34%).

In Quebec, the Bloc is at 41 per cent and has extended its advantage over the Liberals (24%). The Tories and the NDP are tied for third place with 15 per cent.

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Approval

The approval rating for Prime Minister and Conservative leader Stephen Harper remains at 29 per cent, while NDP leader Jack Layton is still the best rated leader at 31 per cent (-1). Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff is at 14 per cent (-2).

Momentum

Ignatieff posted the worst momentum score in April at -25 (31% of respondents say their opinion of the Liberal leader has worsened, while six per cent report an improvement). Harper was not far behind at -21, while Layton is still the best leader in this category at -2.

Analysis

In a month that featured the resignation of Minister of State for Status of Women Helena Guergis, increased attention into the activities of former Conservative MP Rahim Jaffer, and the ruling made by Speaker of the House Peter Milliken on the Afghan detainee issue, the three main parties did not go through any significant shift.

While the Tories dropped back in Ontario, they remain particularly dominant in Western Canada, and had very good numbers in British Columbia. Still, the big winner of the month was the Bloc, reaching the 11 per cent mark for the first time since December.

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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?

	Apr. 28-29	Mar. 25-26	*2008 Election*
Conservative Party	35%	35%	*37.6%*
Liberal Party	28%	29%	*26.2%*
New Democratic Party	19%	20%	*18.2%*
Bloc Québécois	11%	9%	*10.0%*
Green Party	7%	7%	*6.8%*
Other party	1%	0%	*1.2%*

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
Conservative Party	35%	51%	66%	47%	34%	15%	36%
Liberal Party	28%	14%	16%	19%	37%	24%	41%
New Democratic Party	19%	30%	9%	31%	17%	15%	21%
Bloc Québécois	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	41%	0%
Green Party	7%	5%	4%	2%	11%	5%	0%
Other party	1%	1%	5%	1%	0%	0%	2%

Canadian Political Pulse - APPROVAL Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people? *(Change since Mar. 25-26)*			
	Approve	**Disapprove**	**Not sure**
Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	**29% (=)**	**48% (-1)**	**22% (=)**
Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff	**14% (-2)**	**55% (+5)**	**32% (-2)**
New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton	**31% (-1)**	**35% (+4)**	**33% (-4)**

Canadian Political Pulse - MOMENTUM Over the course of the past month, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, stayed the same or worsened? *(Change since Mar. 25-26)*				
	Improved	**Stayed the same**	**Worsened**	**Not sure**
Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	**10% (+1)**	**50% (=)**	**31% (-2)**	**9% (+1)**
Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff	**6% (=)**	**49% (-3)**	**31% (-1)**	**13% (+2)**
New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton	**8% (+1)**	**69% (-1)**	**10% (-3)**	**13% (+3)**

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical 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 Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. 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 Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid 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.

Angus Reid, 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. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/

- 30 -

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

Copies of this poll are available on our website:
http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends