EKOS POLITICS

NOT SO FAST, MARK CARNEY

RECESSION OVER? NO WAY, SAY CANADIANS OVERWHELMINGLY

[Ottawa – August 6, 2009] – Canadians overwhelmingly believe we are still in a recession, despite the recent pronouncement of the Bank of Canada that growth has returned to Canada in the current quarter, marking an end to the recession in technical terms. Eighty-six per cent of us say we are in some sort of recession or depression.

Indeed, almost as many Canadians believe we are in a depression as those who buy the good news that the recession is over, according to this latest in a weekly series of polls conducted exclusively for cbc.ca.

"Canadians have become somewhat more positive about the economy since the depths of winter," said EKOS President Frank Graves. "However, these numbers show that we are probably many months, if not years, away from a recovery of the consumer confidence which existed last summer."

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National federal vote intention:**
  - ¤ **34.9% CPC**
  - ¤ **31.9% LPC**
  - ¤ **13.8% NDP**
  - ¤ **10.8% Green**
  - ¤ **8.6% BQ**

- **State of Canada's economy:**
  - ¤ **12% depression**
  - ¤ **25% severe recession**
  - ¤ **49% mild recession**
  - ¤ **12% period of moderate growth**
  - ¤ **2% period of strong growth**

- **Perceptions of the crime rate:**
  - ¤ **26% decreasing**
  - ¤ **26% staying the same**
  - ¤ **48% increasing**

Please note that the methodology is provided at the end of this document.

"We know from our research that Canadians are less impressed with overall growth figures than they are with unemployment and income when they come to assess the state of the economy. And it will take a long while for them to recover."

Meanwhile, the two leading federal political parties remain in a tight clinch, unable to strike a blow. For weeks now, the Liberals and Conservatives have had barely any room between them, and neither can claim any momentum.

"We see a very strong East-West divide, said Graves. "If the country stretched from Saint John's to the Sault, we would most likely see a clear Liberal majority. From Manitoba to BC, the country would return an impressive Conservative majority."

"Among Canadian voters under 25 years of age, the Greens would not only have a chance of electing an MP, they would seriously vie for power. The university educated would send a massive Liberal majority to Ottawa; the rest of Canada would generate a Tory landslide."

The poll also found a deep divide among Canadians – and to a degree along party lines – about the issue of crime, providing another illustration of the elusiveness of consensus in contemporary Canada.

"Although there is indisputable evidence that crime is on the wane in Canada – one of the serendipitous benefits of an aging population more concerned with retirement than raising hell – most Canadians believe crime is on the rise," said Graves. "The discrepancy between reality and perception is falling – particularly among the better educated – but it remains wide."

Canadians divide along party lines about how to deal with violent crime. Conservative supporters are most likely to opt for tougher sentencing. Supporters of all other parties except the Bloc Québécois incline more towards prevention programs designed to deal with the social causes of crime.
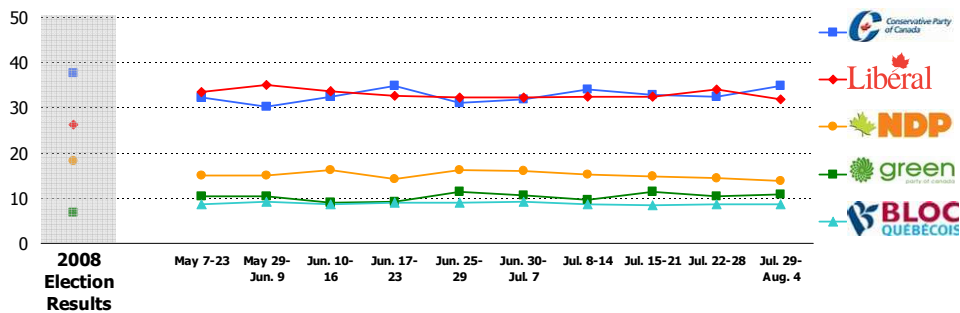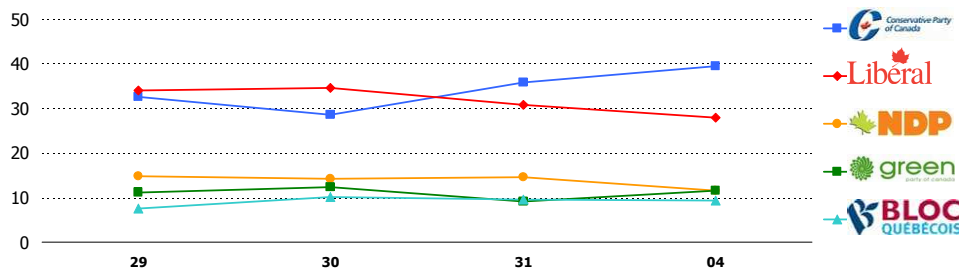
Top Line Results:

Federal vote intention

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?
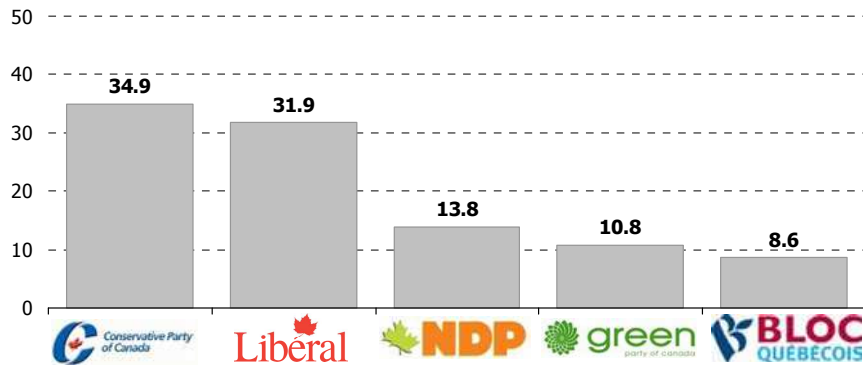
Weekly tracking of federal vote intention

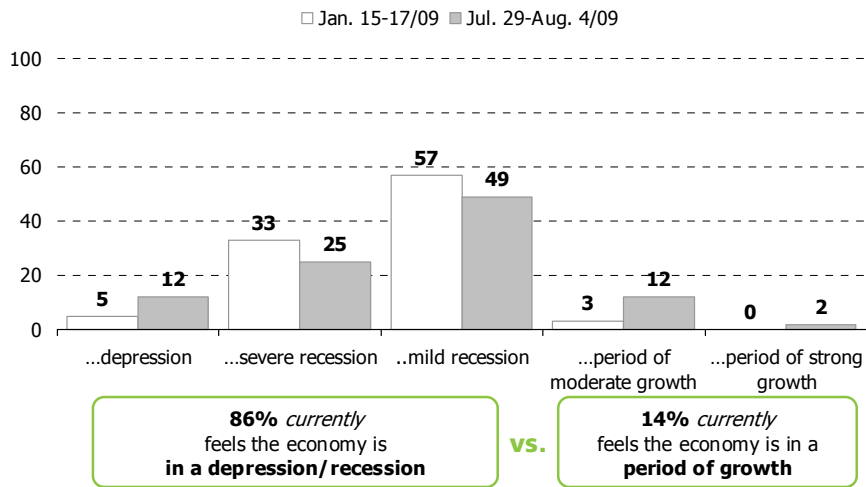#### Weekday tracking of federal vote intention (July 29-August 4)

Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 17.2% of Canadians say they are undecided.

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BASE: Decided voters; most recent data points Jul. 29-Aug. 4 (n=2025)

State of Canada's economy

Q. *Which of the following best describes how you feel about Canada's economy? Would you say the economy is currently in a ... ?*

□ Jan. 15-17/09 ■ Jul. 29-Aug. 4/09

	…depression	…severe recession	..mild recession	…period of moderate growth	…period of strong growth
Jan. 15-17/09	5	33	57	3	0
Jul. 29-Aug. 4/09	12	25	49	12	2

86% *currently* feels the economy is **in a depression/recession**

vs.

14% *currently* feels the economy is in a **period of growth**

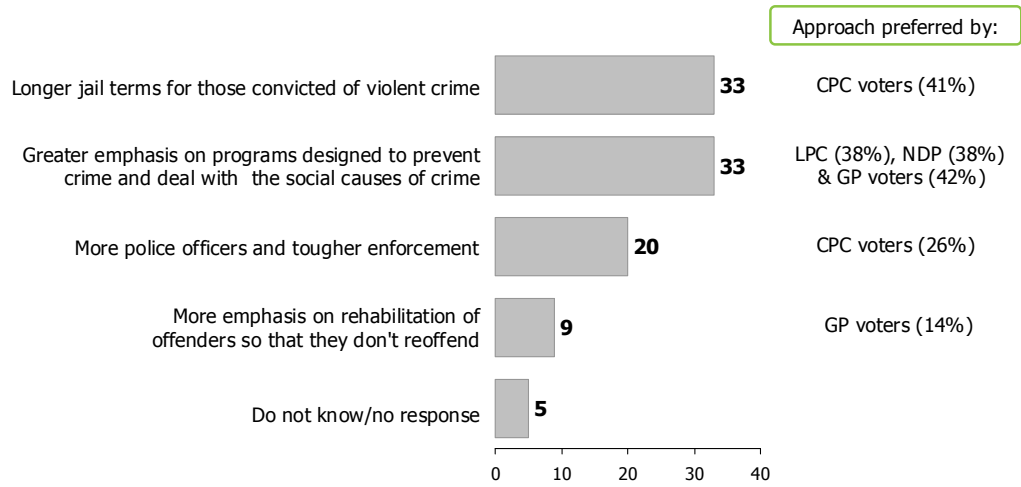**BASE:** Canadians; most recent data point Jul. 29-Aug. 4 (n=2468)

Perceptions of the Crime Rate in Canada

Q. *Over the past ten years, would you say that the crime rate in Canada has been increasing or decreasing*

Tracking perceptions of the crime rate in Canada (2000-2009)

— Decreasing (1-3) — Staying the same (4) — Increasing (5-7)

BASE: Canadians; most recent data point Jul.29-Aug. 4 (n=2468)
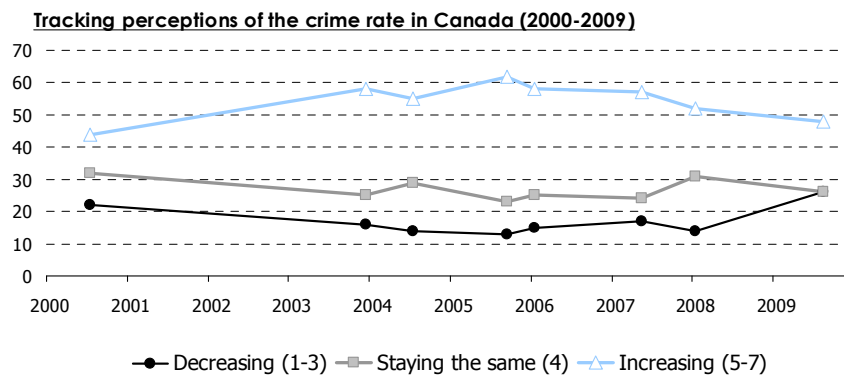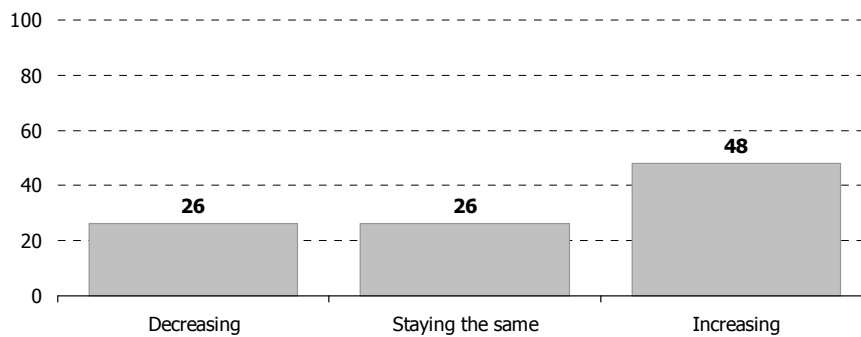
Best approach to addressing violent crime

Q. *Which of the following do you think is the best way to address violent crime in Canada?*

Approach preferred by:

Longer jail terms for those convicted of violent crime	33	CPC voters (41%)
Greater emphasis on programs designed to prevent crime and deal with the social causes of crime	33	LPC (38%), NDP (38%) & GP voters (42%)
More police officers and tougher enforcement	20	CPC voters (26%)
More emphasis on rehabilitation of offenders so that they don't reoffend	9	GP voters (14%)
Do not know/no response	5	

Axis: 0 10 20 30 40

BASE: Canadians; Jul. 29-Aug. 4 (n=2468)

Detailed Tables:

National Federal Vote Intention

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green	BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	**34.9%**	**31.9%**	**13.8%**	**10.8%**	**8.6%**	**2025**	**2.2**
REGION							
British Columbia	39.3%	28.8%	18.4%	13.6%	0.0%	320	5.5
Alberta	60.6%	16.7%	9.6%	13.1%	0.0%	183	7.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	42.7%	29.0%	22.5%	5.9%	0.0%	144	8.2
Ontario	36.2%	38.9%	12.5%	12.4%	0.0%	814	3.4
Quebec	19.1%	27.6%	9.7%	7.6%	36.1%	401	4.9
Atlantic Canada	29.3%	37.9%	23.0%	9.9%	0.0%	163	7.7
GENDER							
Male	37.4%	33.6%	11.2%	9.8%	7.9%	984	3.1
Female	32.4%	30.1%	16.3%	11.9%	9.4%	1041	3.0
AGE							
<25	22.9%	27.7%	14.4%	22.1%	12.9%	203	6.9
25-44	31.0%	28.0%	17.7%	12.8%	10.4%	684	3.8
45-64	36.6%	33.8%	12.1%	8.6%	8.9%	759	3.6
65+	45.6%	37.5%	9.3%	5.0%	2.6%	379	5.0
EDUCATION							
High school or less	35.6%	28.9%	13.5%	11.1%	10.9%	539	4.2
College or CEGEP	40.4%	26.2%	15.1%	10.0%	8.4%	671	3.8
University or higher	29.6%	39.0%	12.9%	11.3%	7.1%	815	3.4
METROPOLITAN CANADA							
Vancouver	34.6%	36.3%	18.8%	10.2%	0.0%	126	8.7
Calgary	71.0%	13.6%	4.1%	11.3%	0.0%	71	11.6
Toronto	31.9%	45.2%	12.3%	10.6%	0.0%	292	5.7
Ottawa	47.1%	35.2%	8.1%	9.6%	0.0%	122	8.9
Montreal	15.7%	30.5%	10.2%	7.0%	36.6%	228	6.5

Federal Vote Intention – British Columbia

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green party of canada	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	**39.3%**	**28.8%**	**18.4%**	**13.6%**	**320**	**5.5**
GENDER						
Male	41.5%	30.1%	14.0%	14.3%	154	7.9
Female	34.5%	28.6%	22.7%	14.1%	166	7.6
AGE						
<25	17.1%	38.0%	17.5%	27.4%	29	18.2
25-44	32.2%	31.5%	16.6%	19.8%	96	10.0
45-64	38.1%	28.7%	23.5%	9.8%	132	8.5
65+	60.7%	21.9%	12.6%	4.7%	63	12.4
EDUCATION						
High school or less	39.2%	29.9%	16.1%	14.8%	72	11.6
College or CEGEP	47.3%	26.5%	17.5%	8.8%	113	9.2
University or higher	29.5%	31.6%	20.4%	18.6%	135	8.4

Federal Vote Intention – Alberta

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green party of canada	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	**60.6%**	**16.7%**	**9.6%**	**13.1%**	**183**	**7.2**
GENDER						
Male	63.0%	16.5%	8.0%	12.5%	84	10.7
Female	58.4%	16.9%	10.5%	14.2%	99	9.9
AGE						
<25	20.2%	21.7%	16.6%	41.5%	15	25.3
25-44	59.5%	17.4%	10.8%	12.3%	67	12.0
45-64	63.4%	15.8%	10.6%	10.2%	75	11.3
65+	78.9%	14.5%	0.0%	6.6%	26	19.2
EDUCATION						
High school or less	69.5%	12.4%	6.8%	11.3%	44	14.8
College or CEGEP	67.7%	13.3%	6.3%	12.7%	68	11.9
University or higher	46.7%	23.5%	14.2%	15.6%	71	11.6

Federal Vote Intention – Saskatchewan/Manitoba

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green party of canada	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	**42.7%**	**29.0%**	**22.5%**	**5.9%**	**144**	**8.2**
GENDER						
Male	44.8%	34.2%	19.2%	1.8%	69	11.8
Female	40.8%	18.0%	29.3%	12.0%	75	11.3
AGE						
<25	19.8%	35.6%	25.9%	18.7%	11	29.6
25-44	41.7%	7.3%	38.3%	12.6%	41	15.3
45-64	53.1%	27.6%	15.8%	3.5%	57	13.0
65+	33.8%	48.8%	17.5%	0.0%	35	16.6
EDUCATION						
High school or less	37.1%	23.1%	32.3%	7.5%	48	14.1
College or CEGEP	43.0%	26.1%	21.2%	9.6%	47	14.3
University or higher	47.7%	27.6%	20.1%	4.6%	49	14.0

Federal Vote Intention – Ontario

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green party of canada	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	**36.2%**	**38.9%**	**12.5%**	**12.4%**	**814**	**3.4**
GENDER						
Male	39.3%	38.6%	11.3%	10.9%	431	4.7
Female	31.4%	39.0%	14.5%	15.1%	383	5.0
AGE						
<25	32.7%	31.0%	12.6%	23.7%	82	10.8
25-44	30.3%	35.6%	16.9%	17.2%	257	6.1
45-64	37.3%	42.8%	10.8%	9.1%	304	5.6
65+	43.0%	41.2%	9.6%	6.1%	171	7.5
EDUCATION						
High school or less	34.4%	34.8%	14.2%	16.6%	197	7.0
College or CEGEP	43.1%	31.9%	13.9%	11.1%	253	6.2
University or higher	30.2%	46.3%	11.4%	12.2%	364	5.1

Federal Vote Intention – Quebec

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green party of canada	BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	**19.1%**	**27.6%**	**9.7%**	**7.6%**	**36.1%**	**401**	**4.9**
GENDER							
Male	19.7%	32.1%	7.2%	7.3%	33.7%	179	7.3
Female	20.4%	27.2%	9.4%	7.5%	35.5%	222	6.6
AGE							
<25	16.6%	14.8%	9.3%	16.7%	42.6%	48	14.1
25-44	20.3%	23.4%	16.0%	4.9%	35.4%	173	7.5
45-64	12.9%	33.8%	2.7%	8.6%	42.0%	128	8.7
65+	33.3%	42.4%	3.9%	4.0%	16.3%	52	13.6
EDUCATION							
High school or less	24.9%	26.1%	6.3%	5.7%	37.0%	122	8.9
College or CEGEP	21.0%	25.3%	9.8%	9.1%	34.8%	133	8.5
University or higher	14.1%	37.6%	8.9%	7.5%	32.0%	146	8.1

Federal Vote Intention – Atlantic Canada

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	NDP	green party of canada	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	**29.3%**	**37.9%**	**23.0%**	**9.9%**	**163**	**7.7**
GENDER						
Male	29.1%	44.5%	13.0%	13.3%	67	12.0
Female	28.4%	33.2%	30.6%	7.9%	96	10.0
AGE						
<25	4.8%	45.4%	30.6%	19.2%	18	23.1
25-44	22.5%	39.6%	24.7%	13.2%	50	13.9
45-64	38.1%	31.3%	23.2%	7.4%	63	12.4
65+	36.8%	45.3%	11.6%	6.2%	32	17.3
EDUCATION						
High school or less	33.6%	39.4%	15.5%	11.5%	56	13.1
College or CEGEP	24.4%	26.2%	36.3%	13.1%	57	13.0
University or higher	28.2%	51.5%	13.9%	6.3%	50	13.9

State of Canada's economy

Q. Which of the following best describes how you feel about Canada's economy? Would you say the economy is currently in a depression, a severe recession, a mild recession, a period of moderate growth, or a period of strong growth?

	Depression	Severe Recession	Mild Recession	Moderate Growth	Strong Growth	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	**12%**	**25%**	**49%**	**12%**	**2%**	**2468**	**2.0**
REGION							
British Columbia	12%	27%	46%	14%	1%	385	5.0
Alberta	10%	26%	50%	13%	1%	221	6.6
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	9%	16%	51%	21%	3%	162	7.7
Ontario	10%	28%	49%	12%	2%	983	3.1
Quebec	18%	22%	50%	8%	2%	508	4.4
Atlantic Canada	12%	24%	49%	11%	4%	209	6.8
GENDER							
Male	12%	26%	48%	12%	2%	1154	2.9
Female	13%	25%	50%	11%	2%	1314	2.7
AGE							
<25	16%	17%	56%	9%	3%	277	5.9
25-44	11%	24%	53%	10%	1%	854	3.4
45-64	11%	29%	47%	11%	2%	911	3.3
65+	14%	24%	43%	17%	3%	426	4.8
EDUCATION							
High school or less	16%	21%	46%	15%	3%	705	3.7
College or CEGEP	14%	23%	51%	11%	2%	823	3.4
University or higher	8%	30%	51%	10%	1%	940	3.2
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Conservative Party of Canada	10%	21%	50%	17%	2%	715	3.7
Liberal Party of Canada	11%	28%	49%	10%	2%	658	3.8
NDP	9%	32%	50%	7%	1%	286	5.8
Green Party	14%	26%	48%	12%	1%	219	6.6
Bloc Québécois	22%	20%	52%	6%	0%	147	8.1
Undecided	15%	25%	47%	10%	2%	348	5.3

Canada's crime rate

Q. Over the past 10 years, would you say that the crime rate in Canada has been increasing or decreasing?

	Decreasing	Staying the same	Increasing	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	**26%**	**26%**	**48%**	**2468**	**2.0**
REGION					
British Columbia	28%	23%	49%	385	5.0
Alberta	21%	24%	56%	221	6.6
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	16%	27%	56%	162	7.7
Ontario	27%	25%	48%	983	3.1
Quebec	30%	31%	39%	508	4.4
Atlantic Canada	22%	23%	56%	209	6.8
GENDER					
Male	29%	27%	44%	1154	2.9
Female	23%	26%	51%	1314	2.7
AGE					
<25	31%	23%	46%	277	5.9
25-44	25%	25%	50%	854	3.4
45-64	27%	25%	48%	911	3.3
65+	24%	32%	44%	426	4.8
EDUCATION					
High school or less	21%	24%	55%	705	3.7
College or CEGEP	21%	27%	52%	823	3.4
University or higher	35%	27%	37%	940	3.2
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	24%	28%	48%	715	3.7
Liberal Party of Canada	30%	28%	42%	658	3.8
NDP	31%	23%	46%	286	5.8
Green Party	25%	23%	51%	219	6.6
Bloc Québécois	33%	29%	38%	147	8.1
Undecided	15%	24%	61%	348	5.3

Best way to address violent crime

Q. Which of the following do you think is the best way to address VIOLENT CRIME in Canada? 1) Longer jail terms for those convicted of violent crime; 2) More police officers and tougher enforcement; 3) More emphasis on rehabilitation of offenders so that they don't reoffend; 4) Greater emphasis on programs designed to prevent crime and deal with the social causes of crime; or None of the above.

	Longer jail terms	More police	Rehabil-itation	Crime prevention	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	33%	20%	9%	33%	2468	2.0
REGION						
British Columbia	31%	21%	9%	34%	385	5.0
Alberta	37%	21%	7%	30%	221	6.6
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	31%	20%	16%	29%	162	7.7
Ontario	30%	20%	9%	36%	983	3.1
Quebec	38%	18%	10%	29%	508	4.4
Atlantic Canada	33%	24%	9%	29%	209	6.8
GENDER						
Male	34%	19%	10%	33%	1154	2.9
Female	32%	21%	9%	32%	1314	2.7
AGE						
<25	30%	14%	20%	31%	277	5.9
25-44	31%	19%	9%	35%	854	3.4
45-64	35%	22%	7%	32%	911	3.3
65+	35%	21%	10%	30%	426	4.8
EDUCATION						
High school or less	41%	20%	12%	22%	705	3.7
College or CEGEP	37%	23%	9%	25%	823	3.4
University or higher	23%	17%	8%	48%	940	3.2
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION						
Conservative Party of Canada	41%	26%	6%	23%	715	3.7
Liberal Party of Canada	28%	18%	10%	39%	658	3.8
NDP	25%	21%	12%	38%	286	5.8
Green Party	24%	15%	14%	43%	219	6.6
Bloc Québécois	36%	17%	11%	34%	147	8.1
Undecided	40%	17%	10%	27%	348	5.3

Methodology:

EKOS' weekly tracking polls are conducted using Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator.

In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of land-line only RDD, we created a dual land-line/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able reach those with both a land-line and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and land-line only households. This dual frame yields a near perfect unweighted distribution on age group and gender, something almost never seen with traditional land-line RDD sample or interviewer administered surveys.

The field dates for this survey are the July 29-August 4, 2009.[1] In total, a random sample of 2,468 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 2,025 decided voters). The margin of error associated with total sample is +/- 2.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, income). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.

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[1] Please note that these dates are not inclusive of the weekends as we do not survey on Saturday or Sunday. For this poll, we did not survey on Monday, August 3 as it was a civic holiday across most of the country.