

CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION 2011

Conservatives and NDP Gain in Canada, as Liberals Fall Below 20% Mark

New Democrats increase their standing in Quebec and British Columbia, and move to second place in Ontario.

[OTTAWA – Apr. 30, 2011] – Canadians head to the final weekend of the federal campaign on the verge of a monumental shift in the country's political history, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with the *Toronto Star* and *La Presse* has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 37 per cent of absolutely certain voters (+2 since earlier this week) would support the governing Conservative Party in the May 2 federal election.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) continues to gain momentum and now has the support of a third of voters (33%, +3), followed by the Liberal Party with 19 per cent (-3), the Bloc Québécois with six per cent (-1), and the Green Party with four per cent (-1).

The Conservatives are roughly at the same level of support they had in the 2008 federal race, with the NDP poised to improve its standing by 15 points. The Liberals, the Bloc and the Greens are all behind their 2008 totals.

A gender gap appears to be developing among the top two parties, with the Tories holding the upper hand among male voters (39% to 31%) and the New Democrats becoming the preferred choice for female voters (37% to 34%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 37%, NDP 33%, Lib. 19%, BQ 6%, Grn. 4%**
- **Best PM: Harper 31%, Layton 29%, Ignatieff 11%, Duceppe 3%, May 1%**
- **Approval: Layton 50%, Harper 34%, May 22%, Ignatieff 19%, Duceppe 12%**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From April 28 to April 29, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 3,003 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists, including 2,197 absolutely certain voters. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 1.8% for the entire sample of Canadians, and +/- 2.2% for the sub-sample of absolutely certain voters, 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.

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The NDP has expanded its support among decided voters aged 18-to-34 (41%), while two-in-five of those aged 35-to-54 (39%) and over the age of 55 (41%) would cast a ballot for the Tories.

The Conservatives continue to post an impressive retention rate, keeping 82 per cent of their voters in the 2008 federal election. The proportion of electors who are sticking by the New Democrats has increased to 85 per cent. The Bloc holds a lower retention rate at 62 per cent. The Liberal Party is currently holding on to slightly more than half of the voters who supported the Stéphane Dion-led party in 2008 (57%).

The NDP has increased its proportion of committed voters to 75 per cent, putting it in tune with the Liberals (74%). Higher proportion of Canadians who have decided which party to support say they will not change their mind about voting for the Conservatives (83%) and the Bloc (86%).

Approval, Momentum and Preferred Prime Minister

The NDP surge is closely tied to the popularity of Jack Layton, who continues to hold the highest approval rating among the five federal party leaders (50%). One third of respondents (34%, -2) are satisfied with the way Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper is handling his duties. Green leader Elizabeth May (22%, -3), Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff (19%, -2) and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe (12%, -1) hold lower numbers.

Layton's momentum score remains impressive at +40, with half of Canadians (50%) saying that they now have an improved opinion of the NDP leader. The remaining contenders all posted negative momentum scores (-5 for May, -26 for Harper, -31 for Duceppe, -32 for Ignatieff).

Harper is now statistically tied with Layton in the preferred Prime Minister question (31% to 29%), with Ignatieff still at 11 per cent.

Issues

For the past three surveys, there has been very little movement on this question. Harper remains the best choice for handling the economy (38%) and crime (37%), and Layton is ahead of his rivals as the best person to handle health care (41%, +3) and ethics and accountability (32%). May is still regarded as the best environmental steward (33%).

Conservative Majority

Despite the fluctuations in the voting numbers, the views of Canadians on this question remain remarkably stable. Three-in-ten (29%) think the Conservative government has performed well, and deserves a majority in the House of Commons after the May 2 election. However, a majority of respondents would either grant a minority mandate to the Tories (15%) or would rather have a different party forming the government (44%).

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Strategic Voting

About three-in-ten Canadians (30%) say they definitely or probably would consider voting for a party they dislike to force the defeat of a specific candidate in their riding. Liberal voters (49%) and NDP voters (36%) are more likely to partake in this practice than Conservatives (17%).

Also, more than a third of Canadians (36%) are considering voting strategically in order to reduce the chances of a specific party forming the government, even if it means casting a ballot for a candidate they dislike. More than half of Liberals (55%) and more than two-in-five NDP supporters (44%) are pondering this option.

Election Outcomes

Overall, none of four possible election outcomes gets the endorsement of a majority of Canadians. Two-in-five (39%) would be content with a Conservative majority after May 2, but more than four-in-five supporters of current opposition parties diverge. A similar proportion of Canadians (37%) would also be satisfied with a Conservative minority government, if the Tories win more seats than any other single party in the House of Commons.

The idea of a coalition government featuring the Liberals and the NDP, if these two parties have more combined seats than the Tories, is appealing to 42 per cent of Canadians. Grit (78%) and NDP (62%) supporters like this scenario, but four-in-five Tories reject it. By far, the least popular option continues to be a Liberal-NDP coalition government buttressed by the Bloc (32%). Supporters of the sovereigntist party (65%) and the Liberals (55%) are more likely to endorse this notion than New Democrats (45%).

Analysis

The NDP's ascendance to second place in the federal political scene continues, buoyed by a noticeable jump in Quebec and British Columbia, and some gains in Ontario. Jack Layton continues to be the driving force behind this shift, keeping the best approval rating and posting an impressive momentum score as the campaign proceeds to its final weekend

Despite this surge, the Conservatives remain in first place nationally, and hold steady in their traditional areas of support. The NDP's gains in BC appear to come at the expense of the Liberals and the Greens. The situation is more ominous for the remaining three parties who are below their 2008 totals. The Liberal Party, now backed by only about one-in-five decided voters, could reach a historic low on election day.

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About Angus Reid Public Opinion

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

About Vision Critical®

Vision Critical is a global research and technology firm that creates software and services solutions for over 600 clients, including one third of the world's top 100 brands. The company has offices across North America, Europe and Australia as well as a Global Partner Program that provides other research companies and consultants with access to top-of-the-line technology. Its Sparq™ product is the most widely adopted community panel platform on the planet.

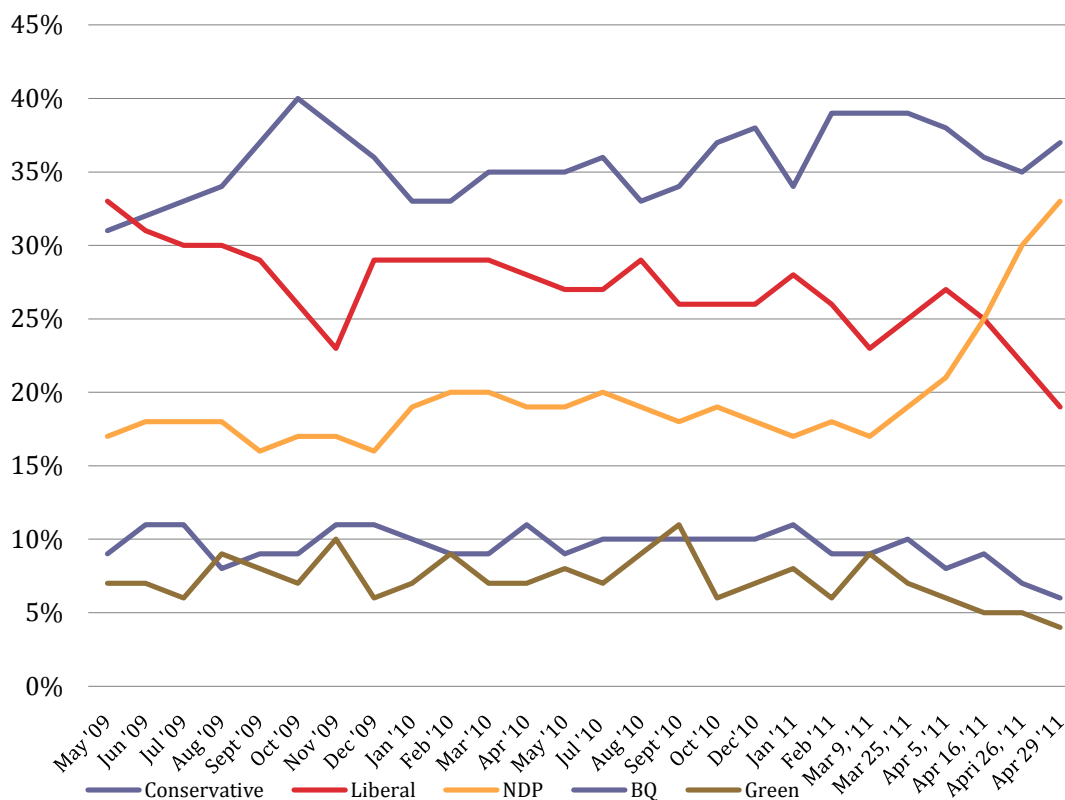
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**For more information, please contact
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If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?



Canadian Political Pulse

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	2008 Election
Conservative Party	37%	42%	67%	54%	41%	13%	27%	37.6%
New Democratic Party	33%	39%	15%	27%	27%	45%	46%	18.2%
Liberal Party	19%	12%	11%	14%	26%	16%	25%	26.2%
Bloc Québécois	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	26%	0%	10.0%
Green Party	4%	7%	4%	5%	5%	1%	1%	6.8%
Other party	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1.2%

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Canadian Political Pulse

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

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Conservative Party	37%	39%	34%
New Democratic Party	33%	31%	37%
Liberal Party	19%	19%	18%
Bloc Québécois	6%	7%	6%
Green Party	4%	3%	5%
Other party	0%	1%	0%

Canadian Political Pulse

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

	Age			
	Total	Age 18-34	Age 35-54	Age 55+
Conservative Party	37%	27%	39%	41%
New Democratic Party	33%	41%	33%	30%
Liberal Party	19%	20%	16%	20%
Bloc Québécois	6%	5%	7%	6%
Green Party	4%	6%	5%	2%
Other party	0%	1%	0%	0%

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Canadian Political Pulse

And, how certain are you that you will vote for this party? – **Decided Voters who expressed a preference**

	Party Support in May 2 Election			
	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
I will definitely vote for this party	83%	74%	75%	86%
I could change my mind before the election takes place	17%	26%	25%	14%

Canadian Political Pulse

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

	Vote in the 2008 Federal Election			
	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Conservative Party	82%	8%	9%	1%
Liberal Party	5%	57%	5%	3%
New Democratic Party	11%	32%	84%	34%
Bloc Québécois	1%	0%	1%	62%
Green Party	1%	2%	1%	1%
Other party	0%	0%	0%	1%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people?

Total Canada					
	Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff	New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton	Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe	Green Party leader Elizabeth May
Approve	34%	19%	50%	12%	22%
Disapprove	51%	58%	26%	63%	31%
Not sure	15%	23%	24%	25%	47%

Canadian Political Pulse

Since the beginning of the election, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, stayed the same or worsened?

Total Canada					
	Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff	New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton	Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe	Green Party leader Elizabeth May
Improved	12%	14%	50%	4%	8%
Stayed the same	45%	34%	34%	49%	57%
Worsened	38%	46%	10%	35%	13%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%	11%	22%
<i>Momentum Score</i>	-26	-32	+40	-31	-5

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Canadian Political Pulse

Which of these leaders is best suited to deal with each of the following issues?

Total Canada

	Crime	Health Care	Economy	Environment	Ethics / Accountability
Stephen Harper	37%	22%	38%	16%	20%
Jack Layton	18%	41%	19%	22%	32%
Michael Ignatieff	12%	11%	17%	6%	11%
Gilles Duceppe	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Elizabeth May	1%	1%	1%	33%	4%
None of them	8%	7%	6%	6%	12%
Not sure	20%	14%	15%	14%	17%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Which of these leaders would make the best Prime Minister of Canada?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Stephen Harper	31%	37%	51%	47%	34%	14%	22%
Jack Layton	29%	27%	14%	25%	24%	43%	40%
Michael Ignatieff	11%	8%	5%	6%	12%	14%	11%
Gilles Duceppe	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	9%	1%
Elizabeth May	1%	2%	3%	0%	2%	0%	1%
None of them	14%	15%	19%	8%	16%	9%	17%
Not sure	11%	12%	8%	13%	11%	10%	8%

Canadian Political Pulse

Which of these leaders would make the best Prime Minister of Canada?

	Age & Gender					
	Total	Male	Female	Age 18-34	Age 35-54	Age 55+
Stephen Harper	31%	35%	27%	22%	33%	37%
Jack Layton	29%	29%	30%	31%	29%	28%
Michael Ignatieff	11%	12%	9%	11%	9%	13%
Gilles Duceppe	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Elizabeth May	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%
None of them	14%	13%	15%	13%	17%	12%
Not sure	11%	6%	15%	17%	9%	7%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The Conservative government has performed well, and deserves a majority in the House of Commons	29%	33%	52%	42%	32%	13%	19%
The Conservative government has performed adequately, and deserves to stay in office with a minority	15%	15%	12%	13%	17%	15%	17%
The Conservative government has performed poorly, and does not deserve to form a government after the next election	44%	38%	25%	31%	42%	58%	52%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%	13%	9%	15%	13%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Which of the following parties would you never consider voting for?

Party Support in May 2 Election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Conservative Party	36%	0%	62%	58%	67%
Liberal Party	31%	49%	0%	26%	57%
New Democratic Party	19%	41%	13%	0%	11%
Bloc Québécois	10%	8%	14%	13%	0%
Green Party	31%	45%	24%	27%	36%
Would consider all of them	11%	9%	14%	10%	5%
Not sure	9%	7%	4%	5%	2%

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Strategic Voting

There has been a lot of talk in recent elections about the concept of “strategic voting”, which entails a voter supporting a candidate other than his or her true preference in order to avoid a specific outcome. Would you consider any of the following scenarios with your vote on May 2nd? –

Voting for a party you dislike to force the defeat of a specific candidate in your riding

	Party Support in May 2 Election				
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Definitely would consider	12%	6%	20%	17%	7%
Probably would consider	18%	11%	29%	20%	19%
Probably would not consider	18%	20%	12%	20%	22%
Definitely would not consider	41%	56%	31%	36%	43%
Not sure	10%	7%	8%	7%	9%

Strategic Voting

There has been a lot of talk in recent elections about the concept of “strategic voting”, which entails a voter supporting a candidate other than his or her true preference in order to avoid a specific outcome. Would you consider any of the following scenarios with your vote on May 2nd? –

Voting for a candidate you dislike to reduce the chances of a specific party forming the government

	Party Support in May 2 Election				
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Definitely would consider	15%	7%	25%	20%	11%
Probably would consider	21%	16%	30%	24%	22%
Probably would not consider	16%	19%	13%	16%	21%
Definitely would not consider	38%	52%	25%	33%	41%
Not sure	10%	7%	7%	7%	6%

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Possible Election Outcomes

Here are some prospective scenarios that could result from the upcoming federal election. Would you personally be satisfied or dissatisfied with each one of these outcomes? –

The Conservatives win more seats than all other parties combined, and form a majority government.

Vote in the 2008 Federal Election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Very satisfied	27%	74%	1%	3%	3%
Moderately satisfied	13%	18%	8%	11%	7%
Moderately dissatisfied	9%	4%	8%	13%	7%
Very dissatisfied	44%	1%	79%	68%	79%
Not sure	8%	3%	4%	5%	5%

Possible Election Outcomes

Here are some prospective scenarios that could result from the upcoming federal election. Would you personally be satisfied or dissatisfied with each one of these outcomes? –

The Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, and form a minority government.

Vote in the 2008 Federal Election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Very satisfied	7%	14%	3%	4%	7%
Moderately satisfied	30%	53%	17%	19%	14%
Moderately dissatisfied	24%	20%	32%	28%	25%
Very dissatisfied	30%	11%	44%	43%	48%
Not sure	9%	3%	4%	6%	5%

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Possible Election Outcomes

Here are some prospective scenarios that could result from the upcoming federal election. Would you personally be satisfied or dissatisfied with each one of these outcomes? –

The Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, but the Liberals and the NDP have more combined seats than the Conservatives. The Liberals and the NDP form a coalition government.

Vote in the 2008 Federal Election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Very satisfied	16%	2%	38%	23%	13%
Moderately satisfied	26%	8%	40%	39%	32%
Moderately dissatisfied	15%	14%	10%	18%	21%
Very dissatisfied	34%	73%	7%	13%	24%
Not sure	9%	3%	5%	6%	9%

Possible Election Outcomes

Here are some prospective scenarios that could result from the upcoming federal election. Would you personally be satisfied or dissatisfied with each one of these outcomes? –

The Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, but the Liberals, the NDP and the Bloc have more combined seats than the Conservatives. The Liberals and the NDP form a coalition government, with the support of the Bloc.

Vote in the 2008 Federal Election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ
Very satisfied	10%	2%	20%	13%	30%
Moderately satisfied	21%	5%	35%	32%	35%
Moderately dissatisfied	17%	9%	23%	23%	13%
Very dissatisfied	42%	82%	17%	25%	14%
Not sure	10%	3%	5%	7%	9%

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