

## QUEBEC POLITICAL SCENE

# Parti Québécois Holds Comfortable Lead, as Charest Government Trails

*Fewer than one-in-four Quebecers believe the current administration is doing a good job, and two-thirds want a new person to take over as Liberal leader.*

[MONTREAL – Aug. 14, 2010] – The sovereigntist Parti Québécois (PQ) maintains the upper hand in Quebec's political scene, and Quebecers have become increasingly critical of the government headed by Jean Charest, a new *La Presse* / Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 804 adult Quebecers, 39 per cent of decided voters (-2 since April) would support the Parti Québécois if a provincial election were held tomorrow.

The governing Liberal Party of Quebec (PLQ) is second with 31 per cent (+8), followed by Action Démocratique du Québec (ADQ) with 12 per cent, the Green Party with eight per cent, and Québec Solidaire also with eight per cent.

While the Liberals have gained eight points since April, these gains are largely due to regaining the support of disenchanting voters who, while unhappy with the current government, are unwilling to jump ship. The ADQ remains a distant third while the the Greens and Québec Solidaire vie for fourth place.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: PQ 39%, PLQ 31%, ADQ 12%, QS 8%, Green 8%**
- **23% of Quebecers are satisfied with the performance of the government**
- **66% think Jean Charest should step down as leader of the PLQ**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From August 10 to August 12, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 804 randomly selected adults in Quebec who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.4%, 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 Quebec. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

### The Government

The second place showing for the PLQ is directly related to the unpopularity of the current administration. Only 23 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the performance of the government, while seven-in-ten

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(71%) are dissatisfied. A third of Quebecers (34%) claim to be "very dissatisfied" with the way the government is handling its duties.

### **The Leaders**

The survey asked respondents to say whether Quebec's three main parties should keep their current leaders, or change them. Two-thirds of Quebecers (66%) believe that Quebec Premier Jean Charest should "definitely" or "probably" step down as leader of the PLQ. A majority of respondents (54%) feel the same way about PQ leader Pauline Marois, while only 30 per cent believe that Gérald Detell should no longer serve as the leader of the ADQ.

### **Analysis**

Despite the disturbing numbers on satisfaction and the high proportion of Quebecers who would like to see a different person heading the governing party, the PLQ has recovered some points since April, when the allegations leveled by former justice minister Marc Bellemare dominated the airwaves and the government's unpopular budget was still top of mind.

While the PQ retains its lead, it has not truly capitalized on the PLQ's misfortunes. The fact that half of Quebecers want to replace Marois suggests that she is not currently being regarded as a "premier-in-waiting." In fact, more than a third of Quebecers want both Charest and Marois to quit, exemplifying the growing discontent with the political class.

Consult our April 2010 survey on Quebec's Political Scene [here](#)

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**La Presse/Angus Reid Public Opinion  
Quebec Political Scene**

If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you most likely to support?

	<b>Aug. 2010</b>	<b>Apr. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>
<b>Parti Québécois (PQ)</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Liberal Party of Quebec (PLQ)</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Action Démocratique du Québec (ADQ)</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Parti vert du Québec</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Québec Solidaire</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Other party</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>

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**La Presse/Angus Reid Public Opinion  
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How satisfied or dissatisfied would you say you are with the performance of the current government?

<b>Very satisfied</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Moderately satisfied</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Moderately dissatisfied</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Very dissatisfied</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Satisfied - NET</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Dissatisfied - NET</b>	<b>71%</b>

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**La Presse/Angus Reid Public Opinion  
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Please indicate whether you think the following persons should step down from leading their respective political parties or not?

	<b>Jean Charest</b>	<b>Pauline Marois</b>	<b>G�erald Deltell</b>
<b>Should definitely step down</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Should probably step down</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Should probably not step down</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Should definitely step down</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Should step down - NET</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Should not step down - NET</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>

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*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](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 high-quality, multi-streamed approach and an in-depth screening procedure.*

*The panels are highly engaged communities with industry leading response rates and are researched with state-of-the-art sampling techniques, combined with deep profiling on demographic, behavioural and attitudinal characteristics. 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:*

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*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/>*

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**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>**

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