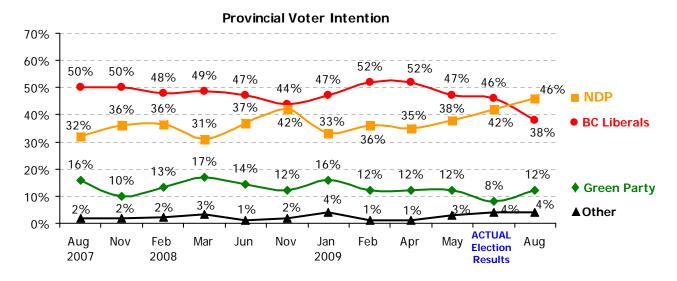


Release Date: August 27, 2009

## **BC Liberal Support Tumbles While NDP Gain**

The BC Liberals have dropped 8 percentage points in voter support since the election while the NDP have gained 4 percentage points, bringing the NDP into the lead.

If an election were held tomorrow, the BC Liberals would have the support of 38% of decided voters (down from 46% in the election), the NDP would receive 46% of the vote (up from 42%), and the Green Party would attract 12% (obtained 8% in the election). Support for the BC Liberals has fallen in all key regions of the province.



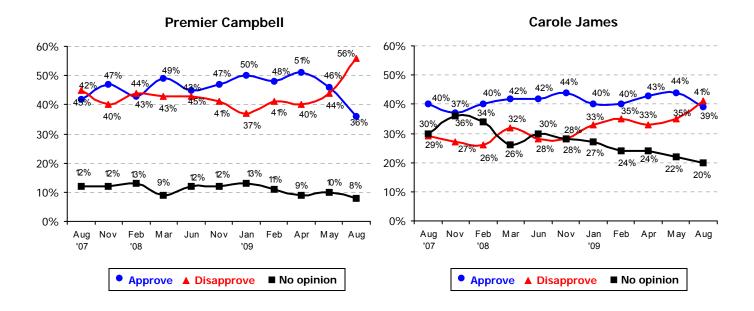
As further evidence of discontent with government decisions and specifically the HST, concerns about government and taxes now rival concerns about the economy when residents are asked what is the most important issue facing British Columbia today.

Top Issue of Concern											
	Aug <u>'07</u> %	Nov <u>'07</u> %	Feb <u>'08</u> %	Mar <u>'08</u> %	June <u>'08</u> %	Nov <u>'08</u> %	Jan <u>'09</u> %	Feb <u>'09</u> %	April <u>'09</u> %	May <u>'09</u> %	Aug <u>'09</u> %
Economy	7	9	9	11	12	40	42	50	39	33	25
Government/taxes	5	7	3	5	4	<1	4	5	6	10	25
Health	20	19	17	19	13	12	7	11	10	10	13
Environment	17	9	13	12	11	12	9	6	7	7	10
Social	10	11	18	16	10	9	8	6	5	2	4
Education	2	4	4	2	3	2	4	3	4	7	3
Crime	5	13	7	6	4	4	3	3	12	3	2
Fuel Cost	0	1	1	4	17	1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1

## **Approval Ratings**

Furthermore, for the first time in two years, disapproval of Gordon Campbell's performance now surpasses approval by a wide margin. His approval rating has fallen from 46% in Mustel Group's last survey in May to 36%, while disapproval has grown from 44% to 56%, resulting in a 20 percentage point negative gap between approval and disapproval.

Approval ratings for Carole James have also deteriorated, bringing approval and disapproval of her performance almost in balance (approve 39%; disapprove 41%).



Mustel Group is a Vancouver-based market research firm with a 29 year history and enviable record of accuracy for political polling. For historical data, please refer to www.mustelgroup.com under "Polls/Articles".

For our 'Proven Record of Accuracy' go to our website at: www.mustelgroup.com/accuracy.php

For further information, please contact: Evi Mustel: 604-742-2240

**Survey conducted**: August 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Methodology: Random sample of 500 BC adults, 18 years plus

Margin of error: ±4.4% at the 95% confidence level; Undecided: 12%

**Sponsored by:** Mustel Group Market Research