

CANADIAN POLITICAL PULSE

Conservatives Lead by Eight Points in Canada as Greens Gain

A third of Canadians would support holding a new federal election this fall, but most believe this possibility is unlikely.

[MONTREAL – Sept. 29, 2010] – The Conservative Party maintains the upper hand in Canada as the Green Party reaches double-digits for the first time this year, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,008 Canadian adults, 34 per cent of respondents (+1 since August) would support the governing Conservative Party in the next federal election.

The Liberal Party is second with 26 per cent (-3), followed by the New Democratic Party (NDP) with 18 per cent (-1), the Green Party with 11 per cent (+2), and the Bloc Québécois with 10 per cent (=).

The Liberals, NDP and Bloc are matching their vote share from the last federal election, while the Tories are three points behind. The biggest gainers are the Greens, who now stand four points ahead of their 2008 nationwide total.

Regional Breakdowns

Half of voters in Alberta (52%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (50%) continue to express a preference for the Conservatives. In British Columbia, the Tories are ahead with 39 per cent, followed by the NDP with 24 per cent and the Grits with 18 per cent.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 34%, Lib. 26%, NDP 18%, Grn. 11%, BQ 10%**
- **Approval Rating: Harper 25%, Ignatieff 15%, Layton 27%**
- **Momentum: Harper -23, Ignatieff -16, Layton -9**
- **34% support holding a new federal election this fall; 44% are opposed**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 27 to September 28, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,008 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.

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In Ontario, the Conservatives are ahead of the Liberals by a three-point margin (36% to 33%). In Quebec, the Bloc continues to dominate (38%), with the three federalist parties far behind (Lib. 22%, NDP 17%, Con. 17%).

Approval and Momentum

The approval rating for Prime Minister and Conservative leader Stephen Harper stands at 25 per cent this month (-1). NDP leader Jack Layton remains at 27 per cent, and Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff is last with 15 per cent (+1).

While Layton maintains the best momentum score of the three leaders at -9, the proportion of respondents who say their opinion of him has worsened increased by eight points since August. Ignatieff's momentum score is -16 (worse than in August, but better than in July), while Harper checks in at -23.

Attributes

Canadians were asked to select up to six words or expressions from a list to describe the four party leaders sitting in the House of Commons. The top five results for each one of the leaders are:

- *Stephen Harper – Secretive (38%), arrogant (36%), dishonest (36%), out of touch (33%), uncaring (31%)*

Compared to August, Harper lost points on three negative categories (arrogant, secretive and boring) and gained points on one negative category (dishonest).

- *Michael Ignatieff – Boring (35%), arrogant (33%), out of touch (31%), intelligent (30%), inefficient (24%)*

All fluctuations for Ignatieff were smaller than four points.

- *Jack Layton – Intelligent (29%), down to earth (27%), honest (25%), compassionate (24%), open (24%)*

Compared to August, Layton lost points on one positive category (intelligent) and gained points on one negative category (arrogant).

- *Gilles Duceppe – Arrogant (30%), out of touch (27%), inefficient (21%), boring (21%), intelligent (20%)*

Compared to August, Duceppe lost points on one positive category (intelligent) and gained points on two negative categories (secretive and inefficient).

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A Fall Election?

Across the country, one third of Canadians (34%) would support holding a federal election this fall, while just under half (44%) disagree with this course of action.

Respondents who voted for the NDP (54%), the Liberals (54%) and the Bloc (50%) in the 2008 federal election are more likely to support holding a new federal ballot than those who voted for the Greens (35%) or the Conservatives (28%).

Almost half of respondents (47%) think it is "not too likely" or "not likely at all" that a federal election will be held this fall in Canada—including majorities of supporters of all five major parties.

Analysis

The debate over the long gun registry has not helped any of the three main political leaders. The numbers for Harper and Ignatieff are stagnant, and Layton saw a marked drop in momentum, although he continues to outrank his two rivals.

The Greens have been boosted by a surge in support in the West. The party is very close to matching the Liberals in British Columbia, and is ahead of the NDP in Alberta. In Quebec, the Bloc is closing in on the 40 per cent mark, with the NDP matching the Tories for third place. Ontario remains tightly contested, with the Tories once again edging the Grits by a mere three points.

The appetite for a fall election is clearly bigger for supporters of the three main opposition parties currently represented in the House of Commons. However, even they admit that, as of now, the possibility of a new ballot is unlikely.

This year's editions of the Canadian Political Pulse can be accessed here:

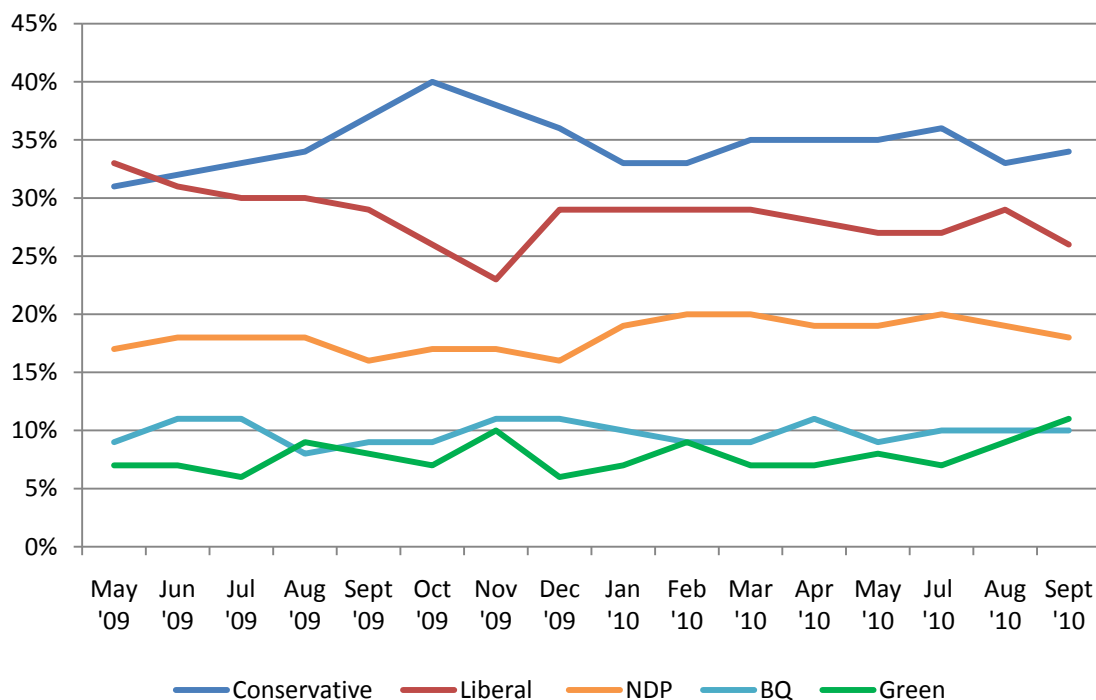
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If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?



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	Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	2008 Election
Conservative Party	34%	39%	52%	50%	36%	17%	31%	37.6%
Liberal Party	26%	18%	17%	19%	33%	22%	48%	26.2%
New Democratic Party	18%	24%	14%	24%	19%	17%	12%	18.2%
Green Party	11%	17%	16%	7%	11%	6%	6%	6.8%
Bloc Québécois	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	0%	10.0%
Other party	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	3%	1.2%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people?
(Change since August 2010)

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
Approve	25% (-1)	15% (+1)	27% (=)
Disapprove	49% (+2)	47% (=)	37% (+5)
Not sure	26% (-1)	38% (-1)	36% (-4)

Canadian Political Pulse

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 August 2010)

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
Improved	8% (+2)	9% (-1)	9% (+2)
Stayed the same	47% (-1)	48% (-3)	56% (-11)
Worsened	31% (-1)	25% (+3)	18% (+8)
Not sure	15% (+1)	19% (+2)	17% (+1)
<i>Momentum Score</i>	-23	-16	-9

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Here are some words that people may use to describe Stephen Harper / Michael Ignatieff / Jack Layton / Gilles Duceppe. Please select up to six words you think describe him. *(Change since August 2010)*

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
Down to earth	14% (-1)	8% (+1)	27% (-2)	8% (=)
Arrogant	36% (-6)	33% (-2)	19% (+5)	30% (-3)
Open	8% (+1)	10% (=)	24% (+2)	9% (-2)
Secretive	38% (-5)	19% (+2)	9% (=)	16% (+4)
Efficient	19% (=)	8% (+1)	11% (=)	7% (-5)
Inefficient	21% (-3)	24% (-3)	20% (=)	21% (+4)
Compassionate	8% (+1)	8% (+1)	24% (-3)	8% (+2)
Uncaring	31% (-1)	14% (-3)	7% (-1)	15% (-2)
Honest	12% (+1)	11% (+3)	25% (-3)	12% (=)
Dishonest	36% (+4)	17% (+2)	11% (-1)	15% (-3)
Strong	20% (+1)	7% (-1)	11% (=)	13% (+2)
Weak	11% (-2)	21% (-3)	19% (+3)	10% (-1)
Exciting	2% (=)	2% (+1)	10% (=)	5% (-1)
Boring	26% (-4)	35% (=)	17% (-3)	21% (+3)
In touch	10% (-1)	6% (-2)	13% (-1)	4% (-1)
Out of touch	33% (-2)	31% (-3)	21% (-1)	27% (=)
Intelligent	29% (-1)	30% (-3)	29% (-5)	20% (-6)
Foolish	12% (-3)	14% (-3)	15% (-1)	17% (=)
None of these	14% (+4)	20% (+3)	17% (+2)	31% (+4)

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All things considered, would you support or oppose holding a federal election this fall?

Party supported in the 2008 federal election						
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Support	34%	28%	54%	54%	50%	35%
Oppose	44%	64%	41%	38%	40%	59%
Not sure	21%	8%	5%	7%	10%	5%

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And how likely is it that a federal election will be held this fall?

Party supported in the 2008 federal election						
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Very likely / Moderately likely	35%	37%	44%	30%	41%	36%
Not too likely / Not at all likely	47%	56%	51%	61%	53%	54%
Not sure	11%	7%	5%	8%	5%	10%

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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), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (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:

<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/>

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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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