



Canadian Political Update

Crosstabulations

Field Dates: February 5 to 6, 2013

Methodology

The survey was conducted online with 1,832 respondents in English and French using an internet survey programmed and collected by Abacus Data. A random sample of panelists was invited to participate in the survey from a panel of over 150,000 Canadians. The survey was completed from February 5 to 6, 2013.

Since the online survey was not a random, probability based sample, a margin of error could not be calculated. The Marketing Research and Intelligence Association prohibits statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates with regard to most online panels.

The margin of error for a probability-based random sample of 1,832 respondents using a probability sample is +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20.

The data was weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Ontario's population according to age, gender, education level, and region.

These questions were posed as part of the Abacus Data monthly Omnibus survey.

For more information about the poll's methodology or the results, please contact David Coletto, CEO at david@abacusdata.ca or at 613-232-2806.

Canadian Politics: Conservatives 35%, NDP 31%, Liberals 21% Federal government approval rating steady at 36%.

*Please refer to the survey as: Abacus Data Poll
1,832 Canadians, February 5 to 6, 2013*

Ottawa, ON – According to a new national survey by public opinion firm Abacus Data, the federal Conservative Party holds a small but significant four point lead over the opposition New Democratic Party. The Conservatives have the support of 35% of decided voters (up 1 point since December) with the NDP in second at 31% (down 2 points since December). The third largest party in the House of Commons, the Liberals, remain in third place with 21% of decided voter support (down 1 point).

"In the past two months there has been little change in the national political opinion environment," said David Coletto, CEO of Abacus Data. "Although the Liberal leadership race is in full swing, it has had little effect on Liberal fortunes across the country."

"Support for the Conservatives is down from the 2011 election but neither the NDP nor the Liberals have gained either. Like much of Canada, the federal political landscape seems to be in a deep freeze," said Coletto.

Regional Vote Intentions

Regionally, the Conservative Party remains the most popular in Alberta (62%) and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (51%) while holding an eight-point lead in Ontario (38%). The Tories continue to struggle in Quebec earning the support of only 15% of decided voters in Canada's second largest province. The NDP and the Conservative Party are statistically tied in British Columbia with the NDP at 40% and the Conservatives at 38%.

In Quebec, the NDP continues to lead the Bloc Quebecois but by a smaller margin than last month. This month, the NDP has the support of 34% of Quebec decided voters followed by the Bloc Quebecois at 26%, the Liberals at 19%, and the Conservatives at 15%.

The Liberals continue to do best in Ontario (26%) and in Atlantic Canada (29%).

The Battle for Ontario

With 18 new electoral districts slated to be introduced before the next election, Ontario's place as primary battleground will only increase. This month, Abacus Data conducted a total of 1,020 interviews in Ontario to get a better sense of what is going on in Canada's largest province.

Province-wide the Tories have an eight point lead over the NDP but there are regional differences of note. The Liberals lead in Metro Toronto by 13-points over the NDP and Conservatives (Toronto: LPC 40, NDP 27, CPC 26) while the Tories have a 19-point over the Liberals and NDP in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA: CPC 44, NDP 25, LPC 25). Considering that most of the seats being added in Ontario will be around the GTA, the Conservatives are well positioned to hold most of the seats in that region and pick up any new seats added.

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Outside of Toronto, the Conservatives lead in Eastern and Southwestern Ontario (Eastern: CPC 43%, NDP 29%, LPC 26%; Southwestern: CPC 41%, NDP 33%, LPC 21%) while the NDP and Conservatives are competitive in the Northern region of the province (Northern: NDP 41%, CPC 38%, LPC 21%) (note the small sample sizes in many regions outside of Toronto).

"Regionally, the Tories continue to do well in their traditional areas in western Canada and in rural and suburban Ontario, while the NDP and Liberals split the vote in urban Ontario and in Quebec."

Other Findings - Government Approval and Leadership Impressions

As usual, the survey also asked Canadians about their views on the general direction of the country, the job performance of the Harper government, and their impressions of the main party leaders.

- **Direction of the Country:** One in four Canadians surveyed (39%) believed that the country in general was headed in the right direction while 43% believed it was off on the wrong track. This is a marginal change from last month when 42% of Canadians believed the country was headed in the right direction.
- **Approval of Federal Government:** Evaluations of the federal government's job performance remain steady this month with 38% approving of the job the federal government led by Stephen Harper is doing and 45% disapproving.
- **Impressions of the Leaders**
 - **Stephen Harper:** Prime Minister's personal impressions dipped slightly this month. One in three Canadians said they had a favourable impression of him (33%, down 2 points) while 46% said they had an unfavourable impression. Twenty-one percent were unsure or had a neutral impression of the Conservative Party leader.
 - **Tom Mulcair:** Personal impressions of Opposition NDP Leader were largely unchanged this month with 30% saying they have a favourable impression and 27% saying they have an unfavourable impression. The plurality of respondents continue to either have a neutral impression or are unaware of the NDP leader.

Bottom Line

The Canadian political landscape continues to be in a holding pattern with vote intentions closely matching the results of the 2011 election. The Conservatives have lost some support in Toronto and in British Columbia but continue to command a big lead in Alberta, the Prairies and in most of Ontario outside of Metro Toronto.

Although other research, including our own, finds that Canadians say they would vote for a Liberal Party led by Justin Trudeau, the Liberal Party has not benefited yet from their leadership race. They trail in every province or region of the country except for in Metro Toronto where they have double digit lead over the other main parties.

The NDP has been able to maintain most of its supporters from the 2011 federal election while attracting some support from previous Liberal supporters. However due to the underwhelming impressions of Tom Mulcair outside of Quebec, this support is likely soft and up for grabs if the Liberals can generate some excitement around whoever their new leader is.

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		Federal Vote Intention (If a federal election was held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you vote for in your constituency?) All Respondents								
		Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Green Party	Bloc Quebecois	Undecided	Count	Unweighted Count	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count	
Region/Province	Canada	31	19	27	5	6	12	1822	1832	
	Atlantic	21	22	23	8	0	25	129	102	
	Quebec	14	18	32	5	25	6	418	257	
	Ontario	33	22	26	5	0	13	728	1020	
	Central	41	17	22	1	0	18	115	102	
	Alberta	55	14	15	5	0	11	182	151	
	British Columbia	35	13	36	8	0	9	250	200	
Gender	Male	37	18	26	5	5	10	877	958	
	Female	25	20	29	6	6	14	945	874	
Age Group	18 to 29	24	14	33	9	4	16	345	284	
	30 to 44	29	19	26	5	7	13	465	467	
	45 to 59	27	20	28	5	8	11	524	609	
	60 and over	41	21	24	3	3	8	488	472	
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	33	16	28	6	6	13	400	396	
	Male, 45 and over	40	20	24	4	5	7	477	562	
	Female, 18 to 44	21	19	30	8	5	16	409	355	
	Female, 45 and over	29	20	28	4	7	13	535	519	
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	83	5	5	1	1	5	577	637	
	Liberal Party	3	77	13	3	0	4	276	287	
	New Democratic Party	3	10	78	3	4	3	445	425	
	Green Party	4	11	4	79	0	2	56	64	
	Bloc Quebecois	2	5	10	2	77	4	88	57	
	Another Party	14	0	0	46	0	40	8	8	
	Can't Remember or did not vote	15	14	20	5	4	43	373	354	

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		Federal Vote Intention (If a federal election was held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you vote for in your constituency?) Decided Voters							
		Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Green Party	Bloc Quebecois	Count	Unweighted Count	
		%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count	
Region/Province	Canada	35	21	31	6	6	1604	1614	
	Atlantic	28	29	31	11	0	96	80	
	Quebec	15	19	34	5	26	392	242	
	Ontario	38	26	30	6	0	631	890	
	Central	51	21	27	1	0	94	86	
	Alberta	62	16	17	5	0	163	135	
	British Columbia	38	14	40	8	0	228	181	
Gender	Male	41	20	29	5	6	791	863	
	Female	30	23	33	7	7	813	751	
Age Group	18 to 29	28	17	39	11	5	288	241	
	30 to 44	34	22	30	6	8	403	403	
	45 to 59	31	22	32	6	9	464	541	
	60 and over	45	23	26	3	4	447	429	
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	38	18	32	6	6	347	345	
	Male, 45 and over	43	21	26	5	5	444	518	
	Female, 18 to 44	25	23	36	10	6	344	299	
	Female, 45 and over	33	23	32	4	8	467	452	
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	87	5	5	1	1	550	611	
	Liberal Party	3	80	13	4	0	266	273	
	New Democratic Party	3	10	81	3	4	431	410	
	Green Party	4	11	4	81	0	55	63	
	Bloc Quebecois	2	5	11	2	80	84	55	
	Another Party	23	0	0	77	0	5	4	
	Can't Remember or did not vote	26	24	34	9	6	212	198	

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		Federal Vote Intention (Ontario Only, Decided Voters)					
		Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Green Party	Count	
		%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count
Region (Ontario)	Ontario	38	26	30	6	631	890
	Toronto	26	40	27	6	145	182
	Greater Toronto Area	44	25	25	6	164	231
	Hamilton/Niagara	40	12	37	11	49	72
	Eastern Ontario	43	26	29	3	97	146
	Southwestern Ontario	41	21	33	5	111	162
	Northern Ontario	38	12	41	9	65	97
Gender	Male	44	23	26	6	314	482
	Female	32	28	34	6	317	408
Age Group	18 to 29	29	20	38	13	128	144
	30 to 44	35	30	29	7	155	221
	45 to 59	37	22	36	4	170	289
	60 and over	48	30	19	2	178	236
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	39	18	33	10	138	194
	Male, 45 and over	49	27	22	3	176	288
	Female, 18 to 44	26	32	34	9	145	171
	Female, 45 and over	37	26	34	4	172	237
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	90	5	4	1	228	347
	Liberal Party	5	77	16	2	141	183
	New Democratic Party	3	9	84	4	134	196
	Green Party	6	14	4	76	21	34
	Another Party	100	0	0	0	1	1
	Can't Remember or did not vote	20	26	41	13	105	129

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		Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?				
		Right direction	Wrong track	Don't know	Count	Unweighted Count
		%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count
	Canada	39	43	18	1822	1832
Region/Province	Atlantic	32	50	18	129	102
	Quebec	27	55	19	418	257
	Ontario	40	42	18	728	1020
	Central	55	24	21	115	102
	Alberta	65	23	12	182	151
	British Columbia	36	45	19	250	200
		Male	44	43	13	877
Gender	Female	35	43	22	945	874
Age Group	18 to 29	36	38	25	345	284
	30 to 44	37	45	18	465	467
	45 to 59	37	45	18	524	609
	60 and over	45	42	12	488	472
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	41	44	15	400	396
	Male, 45 and over	46	42	12	477	562
	Female, 18 to 44	33	40	27	410	355
	Female, 45 and over	37	45	19	535	519
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	73	16	11	577	637
	Liberal Party	30	59	12	276	287
	New Democratic Party	21	64	15	445	425
	Green Party	13	62	26	56	64
	Bloc Quebecois	9	60	30	88	57
	Another Party	0	72	28	8	8
	Can't Remember or did not vote	28	40	32	373	354

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		Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job the federal government led by Stephen Harper is doing?						
		Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Count	
		%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count
Region/Province	Canada	9	27	18	20	25	1822	1832
	Atlantic	3	24	21	24	28	129	102
	Quebec	4	17	21	24	33	418	257
	Ontario	11	28	18	20	24	728	1020
	Central	11	34	20	19	16	115	102
	Alberta	16	44	17	12	10	182	151
	British Columbia	11	29	14	19	27	250	200
Gender	Male	12	28	16	20	25	877	958
	Female	7	27	21	21	25	945	874
Age Group	18 to 29	7	23	30	18	22	345	284
	30 to 44	7	32	17	20	25	465	467
	45 to 59	8	24	19	23	26	524	609
	60 and over	15	30	10	20	25	488	472
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	8	30	18	19	25	399	396
	Male, 45 and over	15	26	14	21	24	476	562
	Female, 18 to 44	5	27	27	19	22	410	355
	Female, 45 and over	8	28	16	22	27	536	519
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	26	54	9	9	2	577	637
	Liberal Party	1	16	15	32	35	276	287
	New Democratic Party	1	12	15	25	48	445	425
	Green Party	1	9	21	32	37	56	64
	Bloc Quebecois	0	5	22	29	43	88	57
	Another Party	0	14	9	49	29	8	8
	Can't Remember or did not vote	3	21	38	19	18	373	354

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		Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae (Do you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of the following people?)								
		Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know	Count		
		%	%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count	
Region/Province	Canada	5	18	36	15	18	8	1822	1832	
	Atlantic	5	20	44	10	10	10	129	102	
	Quebec	4	19	43	13	11	9	418	257	
	Ontario	7	19	29	16	22	6	728	1020	
	Central	3	20	43	15	11	8	115	102	
	Alberta	1	17	36	20	23	4	182	151	
	British Columbia	4	15	35	16	19	11	250	200	
Gender	Male	5	19	32	16	23	5	877	958	
	Female	5	17	39	14	13	10	945	874	
Age Group	18 to 29	3	16	45	14	12	11	345	284	
	30 to 44	3	17	39	15	14	12	465	467	
	45 to 59	5	19	33	16	20	7	524	609	
	60 and over	9	20	29	16	23	3	488	472	
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	4	19	38	16	18	7	400	396	
	Male, 45 and over	6	20	28	16	27	3	476	562	
	Female, 18 to 44	2	14	46	13	9	16	410	355	
	Female, 45 and over	8	20	34	15	17	7	536	519	
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	1	9	32	22	32	3	577	637	
	Liberal Party	19	43	23	9	3	4	276	287	
	New Democratic Party	5	23	41	13	11	6	445	425	
	Green Party	4	17	47	10	20	3	56	64	
	Bloc Quebecois	0	12	44	18	19	7	88	57	
	Another Party	0	0	0	14	59	28	8	8	
	Can't Remember or did not vote	2	10	43	12	13	20	373	354	

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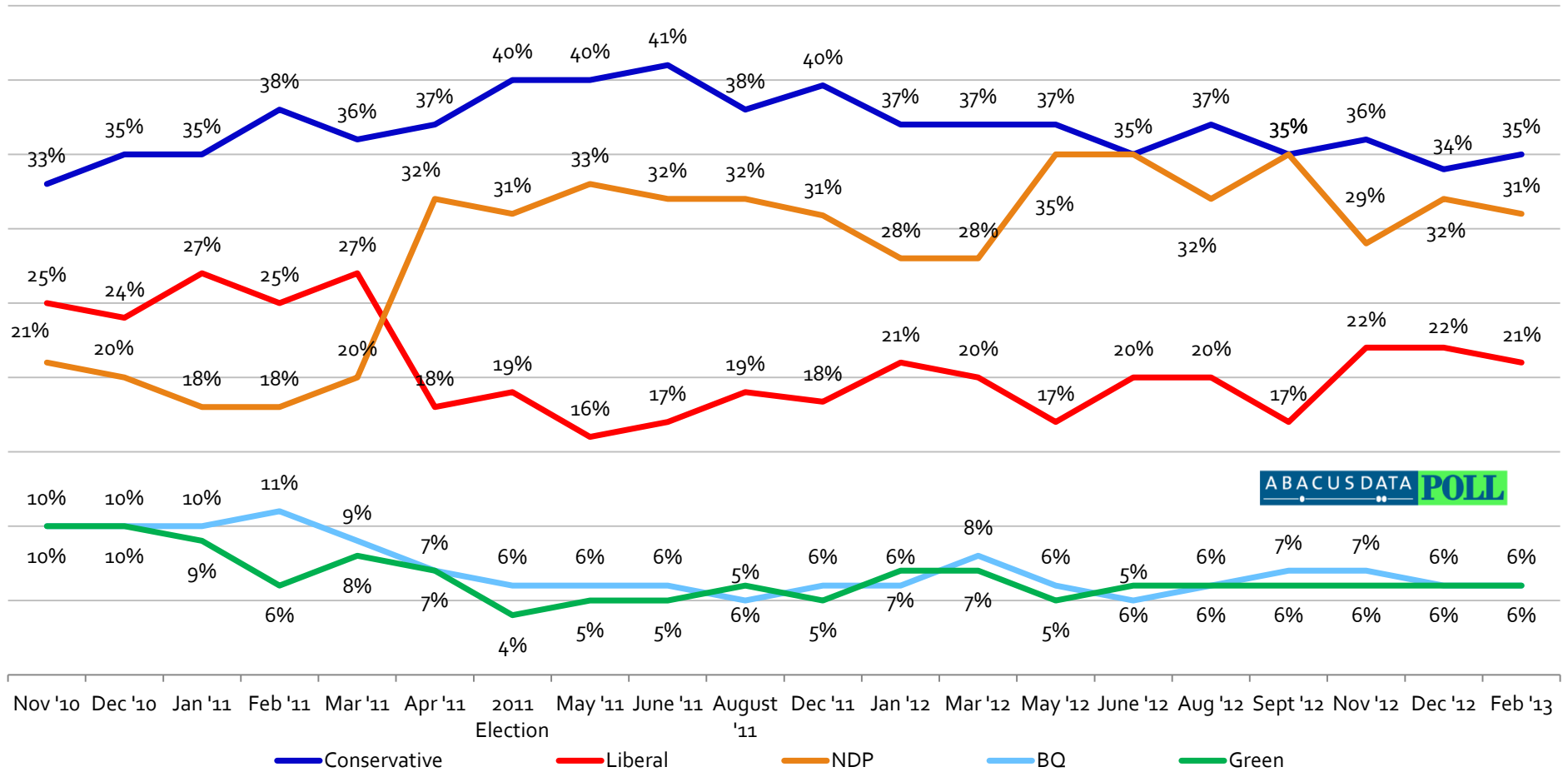
		Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Do you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of the following people?)								
		Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know	Count		
		%	%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count	
Region/Province	Canada	12	21	19	15	31	2	1822	1832	
	Atlantic	4	20	21	15	35	4	129	102	
	Quebec	4	13	19	21	41	2	418	257	
	Ontario	14	23	18	13	29	3	728	1020	
	Central	14	25	16	21	21	4	115	102	
	Alberta	21	33	26	5	15	1	182	151	
	British Columbia	14	19	19	15	31	2	250	200	
Gender	Male	14	22	15	15	32	2	877	958	
	Female	9	20	23	15	30	3	945	874	
Age Group	18 to 29	6	15	31	16	26	5	345	284	
	30 to 44	8	27	17	14	31	3	465	467	
	45 to 59	10	18	20	16	34	1	524	609	
	60 and over	21	23	11	14	30	0	488	472	
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	9	24	17	17	30	3	400	396	
	Male, 45 and over	19	21	13	14	33	0	477	562	
	Female, 18 to 44	5	20	29	13	28	5	409	355	
	Female, 45 and over	12	20	18	16	32	2	536	519	
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	33	43	14	7	3	0	577	637	
	Liberal Party	1	9	15	26	49	0	276	287	
	New Democratic Party	1	9	16	16	58	1	445	425	
	Green Party	1	6	28	15	49	0	56	64	
	Bloc Quebecois	0	2	22	23	51	2	88	57	
	Another Party	14	0	16	19	43	9	8	8	
	Can't Remember or did not vote	3	18	32	16	21	10	373	354	

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		NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair (Do you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of the following people?)						Count	
		Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Don't know	Count	Unweighted Count
		%	%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count
Region/Province	Canada	7	23	34	13	14	10	1822	1832
	Atlantic	7	23	37	10	11	12	129	102
	Quebec	11	40	32	7	6	4	418	257
	Ontario	6	20	35	15	13	12	728	1020
	Central	5	14	40	12	18	10	115	102
	Alberta	0	11	38	21	24	5	182	151
	British Columbia	8	19	28	10	21	13	250	200
Gender	Male	7	24	30	15	18	6	877	958
	Female	7	22	38	11	10	13	945	874
Age Group	18 to 29	6	23	42	8	8	13	345	284
	30 to 44	6	22	35	12	11	13	465	467
	45 to 59	7	22	35	14	13	9	524	609
	60 and over	7	26	27	14	21	6	488	472
Age and Gender	Male, 18 to 44	6	27	33	12	14	8	401	396
	Male, 45 and over	8	22	28	17	21	5	477	562
	Female, 18 to 44	7	19	42	9	6	17	410	355
	Female, 45 and over	7	25	34	12	13	10	538	519
2011 Vote	Conservative Party	2	11	29	21	30	7	577	637
	Liberal Party	4	26	41	11	10	7	276	287
	New Democratic Party	20	43	28	5	1	4	445	425
	Green Party	5	14	50	14	10	7	56	64
	Bloc Quebecois	2	49	34	6	3	7	88	57
	Another Party	0	0	0	29	43	28	8	8
	Can't Remember or did not vote	2	12	43	11	8	23	373	354

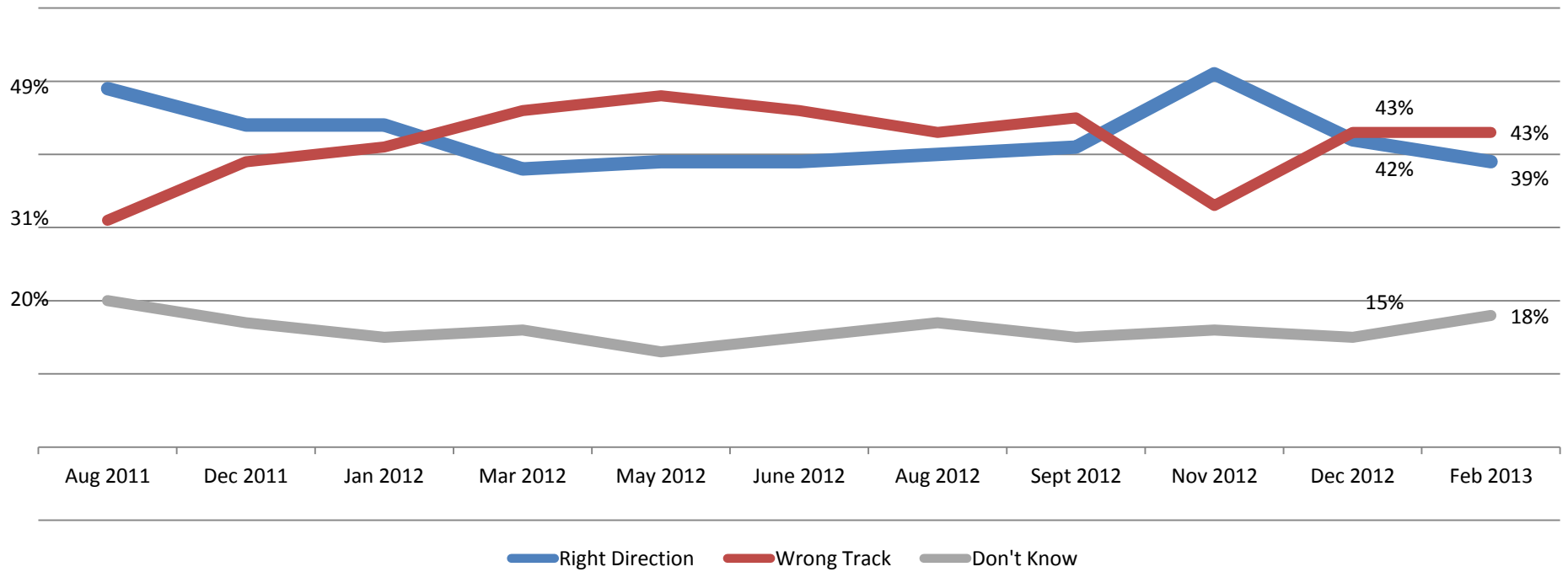
Vote Intention

(Decided Voters)



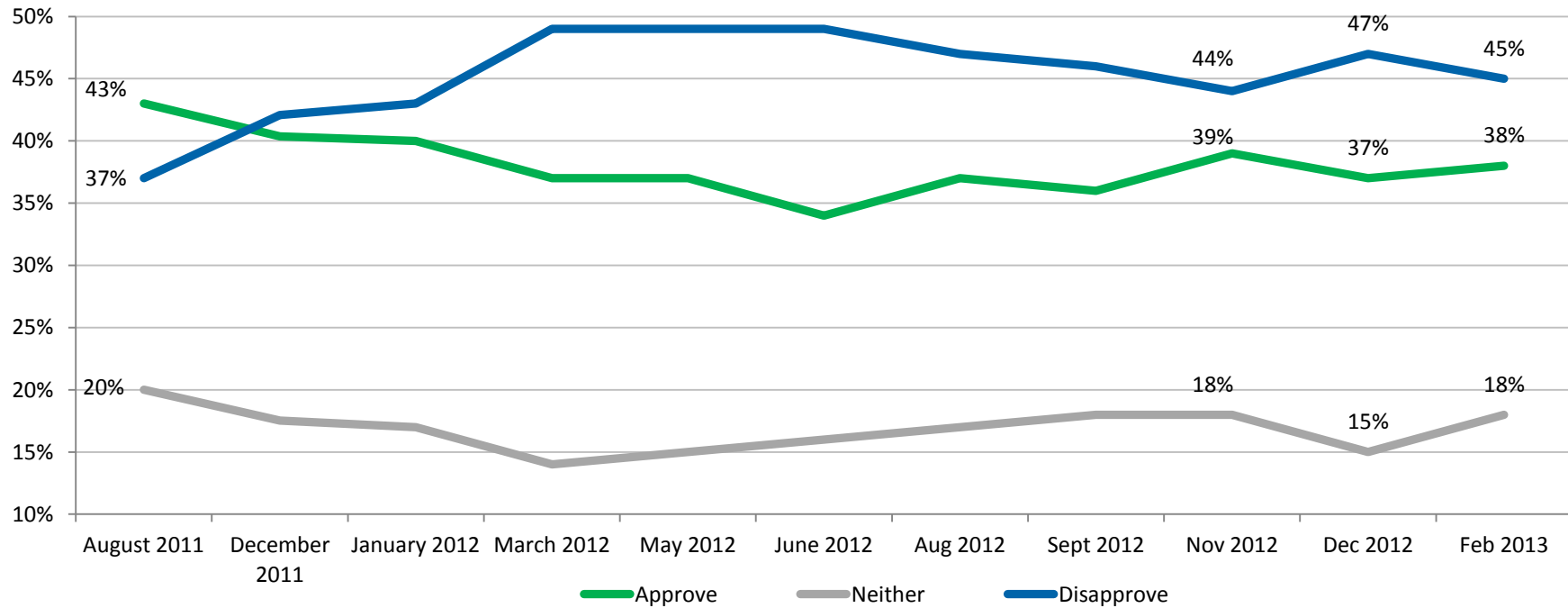
Right Direction / Wrong Track

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?



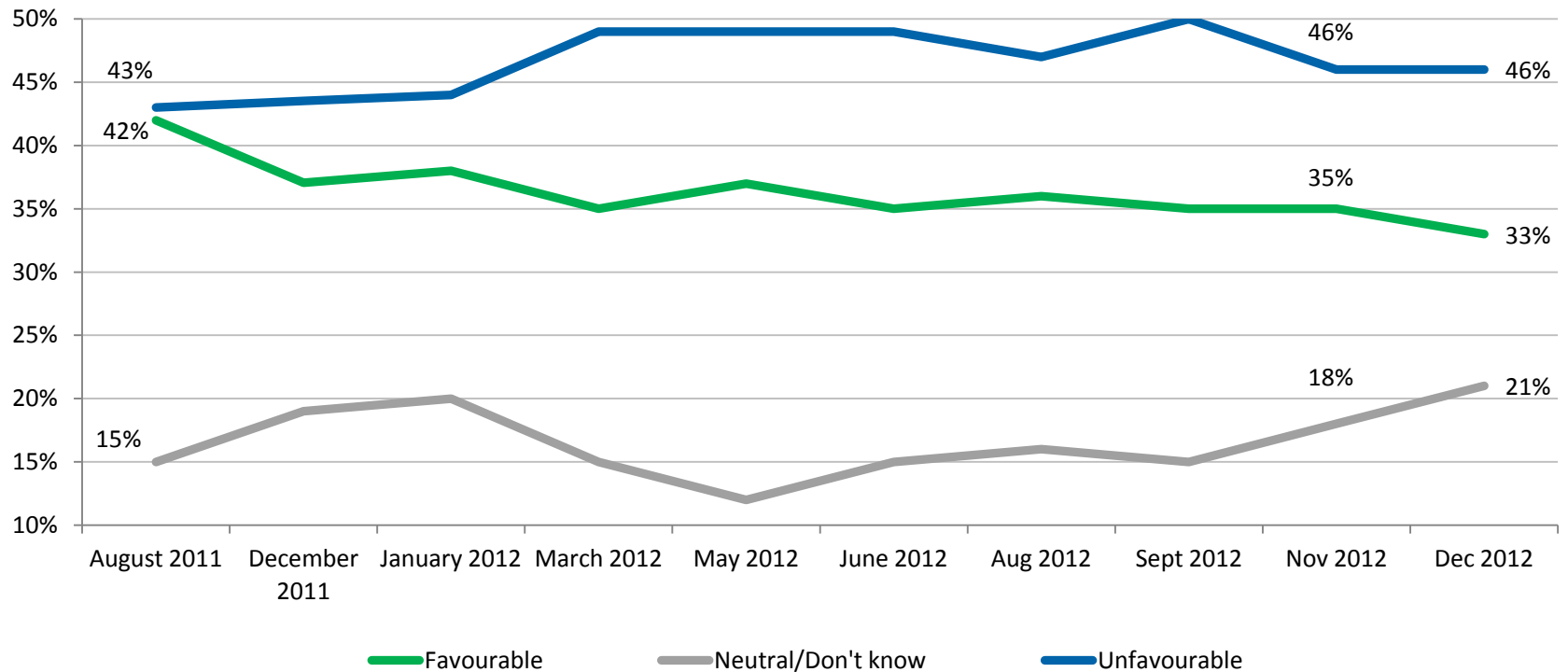
Harper Government Approval Rating

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job the federal government led by Stephen Harper is doing?



Stephen Harper Favourable Rating

Do you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of the following people?



Tom Mulcair Favourable Rating

Do you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of the following people?

