

CANADIAN POLITICAL PULSE

Conservatives Ahead, Turmel Debate Does Not Affect the NDP in Canada

While 45 per cent of Canadians think the NDP should replace Turmel as interim leader, only 29 per cent of NDP voters concur.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 10, 2011] – The Conservative Party remains popular three months after its election victory, and the New Democratic Party (NDP) has not lost ground since the appointment of a new interim leader, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with the *Toronto Star* has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 39 per cent of decided voters and leaners would support the governing Tories in the next federal election.

The official opposition NDP is second with 31 per cent, followed by the Liberal Party with 19 per cent, the Bloc Québécois with six per cent, and the Green Party with four per cent. The results of this survey closely mirror the outcome of the May 2011 federal election.

The Conservatives are leading in their traditional stronghold of Alberta (75%) and maintain a large advantage over their rivals in Ontario (44%). The NDP is virtually tied with the Tories in British Columbia. The Liberals have their best showing in Ontario (26%, tied with the NDP).

Three parties—the Conservatives, the NDP and the Bloc—are holding on to at least four-in-five voters who supported them in the May 2011 election. The retention rate is lower for the Liberals (70%) and the Greens (65%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 39%, NDP 31%, Lib. 19%, BQ 6%, Grn. 4%**
- **43 per cent have been following news stories related to interim NDP leader Nycole Turmel “very closely” or “moderately closely.”**
- **45% think the NDP should replace Turmel as interim leader; only 29% of NDP voters concur**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From August 8 to August 9, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,005 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. 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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Approval Ratings and Momentum

Across the country, 40 per cent of Canadians approve of the way Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper is doing his job. Green leader Elizabeth May gets a positive assessment from 28 per cent of Canadians.

The approval rating for the three interim leaders is lower: Liberal Bob Rae at 23 per cent, the NDP's Nycole Turmel at 22 per cent, and the Bloc's Vivian Barbot at five per cent.

The five federal party leaders posted a negative momentum score this month, with May (-4) and Rae (-6) outperforming Harper (-10), Turmel (-12) and Barbot (-16). The image of the NDP has not suffered, as the party is the only one that does not post a negative momentum score this month.

The Turmel Appointment

Overall, 43 per cent of Canadians have been following news stories related to interim NDP leader Turmel "very closely" or "moderately closely." Two-in-five respondents (41%) are "very concerned" or "moderately concerned" that Turmel was a member of the federal Bloc Québécois and the provincial Québec Solidaire party, while half (51%) are "not too concerned" or "not concerned at all."

In Quebec, unworried respondents outnumber those who are troubled by a 2-to-1 margin (64% to 30%). Only 29 per cent of people who voted for the NDP in the last federal election are preoccupied with the Turmel matter, while 67 per cent are not concerned.

Across the country, 45 per cent of respondents think the NDP should "definitely" or "probably" replace Turmel as interim leader, while 35 per cent disagree with this course of action. However, only 34 per cent of Quebecers and 29 per cent of NDP voters believe a change at the helm of the official opposition is necessary.

Analysis

The federal parties are maintaining the same level of support they had in the last election, despite having to endure three leadership changes. Prime Minister Harper's approval rating has improved since the campaign, and Rae is posting better numbers than those of his two predecessors: Michael Ignatieff and Stéphane Dion. Barbot is not well known, and May has been connecting better with Canadians, even though many respondents are not ready to issue an opinion on her performance.

The Turmel controversy seems to be affecting Canadians who are currently not interested in supporting the NDP, and therefore has not had an immediate effect on the fortunes of the official opposition. The level of support for the NDP remains high, and although Turmel is not particularly liked, the level of animosity towards her appointment is not leading the base to question her role as Jack Layton's interim replacement.

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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.

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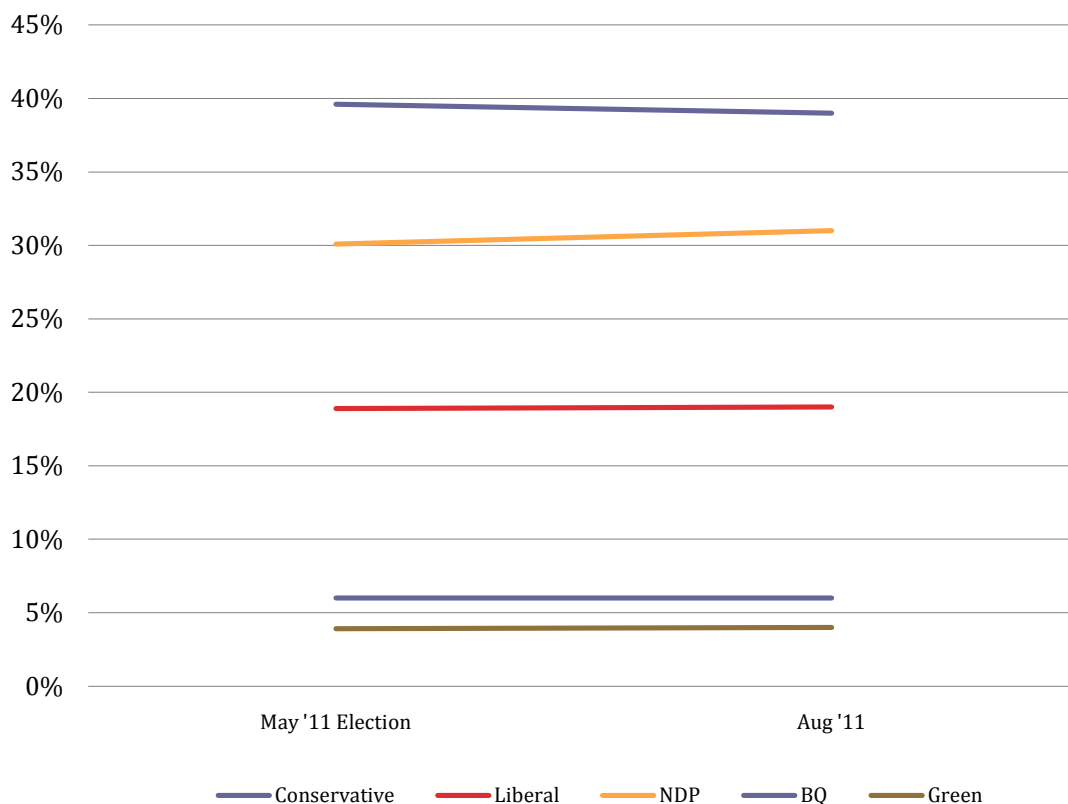
- 30 -

**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	2011 Election
Conservative Party	39%	37%	75%	40%	44%	22%	34%	39.6%
New Democratic Party	31%	38%	21%	44%	26%	35%	35%	30.1%
Liberal Party	19%	17%	1%	15%	26%	17%	24%	18.9%
Bloc Québécois	6%	--	--	--	--	22%	--	6.0%
Green Party	4%	7%	3%	1%	4%	4%	7%	3.9%
Other party	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	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	39%	41%	38%
New Democratic Party	31%	29%	34%
Liberal Party	19%	21%	17%
Bloc Québécois	6%	6%	6%
Green Party	4%	3%	5%
Other party	0%	0%	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	39%	33%	40%	44%
New Democratic Party	31%	35%	31%	28%
Liberal Party	19%	19%	19%	19%
Bloc Québécois	6%	8%	5%	5%
Green Party	4%	4%	5%	3%
Other party	0%	0%	0%	0%

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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?

Vote in the 2011 Federal Election					
	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Conservative Party	91%	6%	5%	0%	15%
Liberal Party	3%	70%	6%	0%	2%
New Democratic Party	5%	20%	87%	7%	16%
Bloc Québécois	0%	0%	1%	85%	0%
Green Party	0%	0%	2%	8%	65%
Other party	0%	4%	0%	0%	2%

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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	Interim Liberal Party leader Bob Rae	Interim New Democratic Party (NDP) and Official Opposition leader Nycole Turmel	Interim Bloc Québécois leader Vivian Barbot	Green Party leader Elizabeth May
Approve	40%	23%	22%	5%	28%
Disapprove	41%	33%	28%	45%	28%
Not sure	19%	44%	50%	50%	44%

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?

Total Canada					
	Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	Interim Liberal Party leader Bob Rae	Interim New Democratic Party (NDP) and Official Opposition leader Nycole Turmel	Interim Bloc Québécois leader Vivian Barbot	Green Party leader Elizabeth May
Improved	13%	9%	10%	1%	5%
Stayed the same	56%	60%	39%	47%	67%
Worsened	23%	12%	22%	17%	9%
Not sure	7%	19%	29%	34%	17%
<i>Momentum Score</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-6</i>	<i>-12</i>	<i>-16</i>	<i>-4</i>

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Canadian Political Pulse

Since the federal election that took place in May, would you say your opinion of each of the following federal political parties has improved, stayed the same or worsened?

Total Canada					
	Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party (NDP)	Bloc Québécois	Green Party
Improved	16%	6%	23%	1%	7%
Stayed the same	49%	54%	45%	47%	64%
Worsened	27%	31%	23%	34%	12%
Not sure	8%	9%	9%	17%	17%
<i>Momentum Score</i>	-11	-25	=	-33	-5

Canadian Political Pulse

Over the past two weeks, how closely have you followed news stories related to interim federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Nycole Turmel?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Very closely	10%	5%	5%	9%	12%	11%	8%
Moderately closely	33%	32%	24%	38%	32%	37%	41%
Not too closely	31%	32%	41%	33%	31%	26%	29%
Not closely at all	26%	30%	30%	20%	25%	26%	22%

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Canadian Political Pulse

As you may know, it has been revealed that federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Nycole Turmel was a member of the federal Bloc Québécois and the provincial Québec Solidaire party. Overall, how concerned are you about this situation?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Very concerned	20%	23%	16%	20%	25%	14%	21%
Moderately concerned	21%	17%	28%	23%	22%	16%	22%
Not too concerned	26%	34%	19%	26%	26%	25%	26%
Not concerned at all	25%	16%	23%	29%	18%	39%	26%
Not sure	8%	10%	14%	3%	9%	6%	5%

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As you may know, it has been revealed that federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Nycole Turmel was a member of the federal Bloc Québécois and the provincial Québec Solidaire party. Overall, how concerned are you about this situation?

	Vote in the 2011 Federal Election				
	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Very concerned	36%	21%	8%	4%	19%
Moderately concerned	24%	21%	21%	17%	18%
Not too concerned	22%	32%	29%	26%	21%
Not concerned at all	14%	20%	38%	48%	36%
Not sure	4%	6%	5%	5%	6%

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Canadian Political Pulse

All things considered, do you think the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) should replace Nycole Turmel as interim leader?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Definitely should	20%	22%	21%	18%	22%	14%	24%
Probably should	25%	27%	28%	27%	27%	20%	20%
Probably should not	19%	11%	13%	21%	17%	27%	16%
Definitely should not	16%	10%	9%	11%	12%	28%	16%
Not sure	21%	29%	30%	23%	22%	12%	24%

Canadian Political Pulse

All things considered, do you think the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) should replace Nycole Turmel as interim leader?

	Vote in the 2011 Federal Election				
	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Definitely should	35%	17%	7%	8%	18%
Probably should	26%	31%	22%	22%	28%
Probably should not	14%	19%	26%	29%	22%
Definitely should not	6%	17%	29%	31%	15%
Not sure	19%	16%	16%	9%	17%

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