

## BRITISH COLUMBIA POLITICAL SCENE

# BC NDP Keeps Upper Hand as British Columbia Ballot Nears

*The BC Liberals are holding on to just two thirds of the people who voted for the party in 2009 under Gordon Campbell.*

[VANCOUVER – May 13, 2013] – The opposition BC New Democratic Party (NDP) remains ahead of the governing BC Liberals as most voters in British Columbia are about to cast their ballots in the provincial election, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with CTV and the *Globe and Mail* has found.

The online survey of a representative provincial sample of 803 British Columbian adults was conducted using the “Real Ballot” technique, which allows voters to select their preference using an electronic ballot that mirrors the one they will actually cast on election day. This approach eliminates the possibility of voters supporting parties that did not register a candidate in their constituency, and enables respondents to be aware of all of the contenders who stand to represent them in the Legislative Assembly.

## Voting Intention

Across British Columbia, 45 per cent of decided voters and leaners (unchanged since Friday) would cast a ballot for the BC NDP candidate in their riding in the provincial election. The governing BC Liberals are in second place with 36 per cent (=), followed by the BC Green Party with nine per cent (=) and the BC Conservatives with seven per cent (+1). Three per cent of

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: BC NDP 45 (=), BC Liberals 36% (=), BC Greens 9% (=), BC Conservatives 7% (+1), Other / Independent 3% (-1)**
- **Approval Ratings: Dix 42% (=), Sterk 42% (+3), Clark 34% (+1), Cummins 20% (-1)**
- **Best Premier: Dix 28% (-2), Clark 25% (=), Sterk 7% (+2), Cummins 5% (=)**
- **58% (+1) think it is time for a change in government in British Columbia; 28% (-2) disagree**

*Full topline results are at the end of this release.*

*From May 12 to May 13, 2013, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 803 randomly selected British Columbia adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%, 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 British Columbia. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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respondents would vote for other parties, independent or unaffiliated candidates in their riding.

The BC NDP holds a seven-point lead over the BC Liberals in Metro Vancouver (45% to 38%) and an 18-point advantage in Vancouver Island (46% to 28%). The two main contending parties are virtually tied in the Southern Interior (BC Liberals 39%, BC NDP 37%).

Among male voters, the race remains tight, with the NDP ahead by just three points (42% to 39%). Women continue to prefer the NDP (47%) with the BC Liberals a distance second (32%).

The New Democrats are ahead with voters aged 18-to-34 (54% to 22%), and hold a four-point lead among middle-aged respondents (41% to 37%). The race is essentially tied with those over the age of 55 (BC NDP 42%, BC Liberals 41%). Half of respondents in the highest household income demographic (50%) would support the BC Liberals, compared to 34 per cent for the BC NDP.

The BC Liberals head to the election with a retention rate of 67 per cent, with 16 per cent of their voters in the last provincial election going to the BC NDP in 2013, and 10 per cent choosing the BC Conservatives. In contrast, the New Democrats have managed to hold on to more than four-in-five voters (83%) who supported the party in 2009.

### **Approval, Momentum, Best Premier and Issues**

Official Opposition and NDP leader Adrian Dix maintained his approval rating of 42 per cent, but Green Party leader Jane Sterk improved by three points and is now tied with Dix (42%). Premier and BC Liberals leader Christy Clark gained a point (34%) and BC Conservative leader John Cummins dropped one (20%).

Sterk continues to post a positive momentum score (+14), while Dix (-13), Cummins (-19) and Clark (-31) remain in negative territory. Almost half of respondents (46%) say their opinion of Clark has worsened, while one third (34%) per cent feel the same way about Dix.

Dix holds a three-point lead over Clark on the Best Premier question (28% to 25%), with Sterk with seven per cent and Cummins with five per cent.

The economy (31%) remains the most important issue facing British Columbia, followed by health care (17%), leadership (13%), the environment (9%), poverty (7%) and education (5%).

Clark remains the most trusted of the four political leaders to handle the economy (30%, with Dix at 26%) and federal/provincial relations (Clark 27%, Dix 23%). The two main party leaders are practically tied on crime (Dix 23%, Clark 21%). Dix maintains sizeable advantages over the incumbent premier on health care (36% to 21%) and education (38% to 22%), while Sterk has extended her lead on the environment (39%).

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Across the province, 58 per cent of respondents (+1) believe it is time for a change in British Columbia and for a different provincial party to be elected into power, while 28 per cent (-2) would prefer to re-elect the BC Liberals.

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*[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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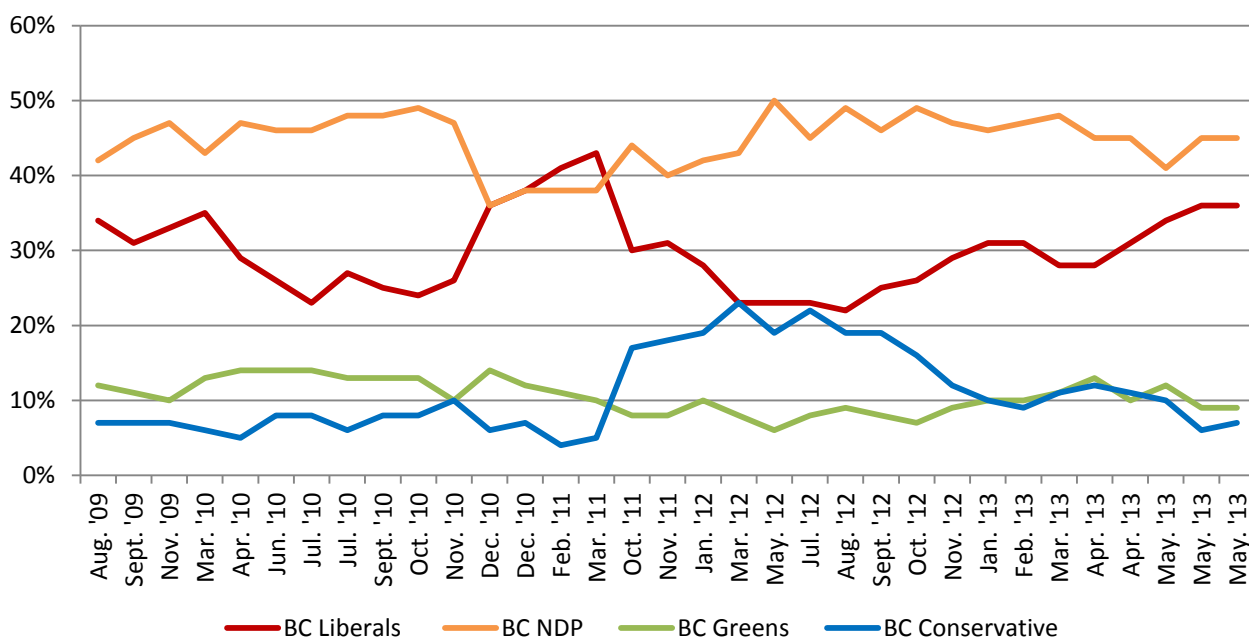
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our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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## Voting Intention – Decided voters including leaners



## BC Political Scene

As you may know, a provincial election in British Columbia is scheduled for May 14. We are going to show you a ballot that includes all the candidates registered to run in your home riding. If this election were held tomorrow, which one of these candidates would you be most likely to support in your constituency? If you have already voted, please select the candidate you voted for. – *Decided voters including leaners*

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North	May 2009 Election
BC NDP	45%	45%	46%	37%	52%	42%
BC Liberals	36%	38%	28%	39%	39%	46%
BC Greens	9%	8%	16%	4%	1%	8%
BC Conservatives	7%	5%	9%	12%	6%	2%
Other / Independent	3%	3%	1%	8%	2%	2%

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### BC Political Scene

If a provincial election were held tomorrow in British Columbia, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? – *Decided voters including leaners*

	Gender		Age			Household Income		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
BC NDP	42%	47%	54%	41%	42%	52%	42%	34%
BC Liberals	39%	32%	22%	37%	41%	29%	36%	50%
BC Greens	9%	10%	13%	9%	8%	11%	10%	6%
BC Conservatives	6%	8%	6%	9%	6%	5%	10%	5%
Other / Independent	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%

### BC Political Scene

If a provincial election were held tomorrow in British Columbia, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? – *Decided voters including leaners*

	Respondents who voted for the NDP in the 2009 Election	Respondents who voted for the BC Liberals in the 2009 Election
BC NDP	83%	16%
BC Liberals	4%	67%
BC Greens	9%	4%
BC Conservatives	2%	10%
Other / Independent	1%	4%

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### BC Political Scene

Which of these leaders would make the best Premier of British Columbia?

	May 9-10, 2013	May 12-13, 2013	Change
Adrian Dix	30%	28%	-2
Christy Clark	25%	25%	=
Jane Sterk	5%	7%	+2
John Cummins	5%	5%	=
None of these	20%	20%	+1
Not sure	15%	16%	+1

### BC Political Scene

Which of these leaders is best suited to deal with each of the following issues?

	Crime	Health Care	Economy	Environment	Education	Federal / Provincial Relations
Christy Clark	21%	21%	30%	13%	22%	27%
Adrian Dix	23%	36%	26%	19%	38%	23%
John Cummins	11%	6%	8%	4%	5%	11%
Jane Sterk	4%	6%	5%	39%	6%	3%
None of them	12%	10%	12%	7%	10%	12%
Not sure	28%	21%	19%	16%	20%	25%

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## BC Political Scene

What do you think is the most important issue facing British Columbia today?

	May 9-10, 2013	May 12-13, 2013	Change
Economy	31%	31%	=
Health Care	17%	17%	=
Leadership	13%	13%	=
Environment	9%	9%	=
Poverty	6%	7%	+1
Education	6%	5%	-1
Tax Relief	5%	4%	-1
Housing	4%	4%	=
Homelessness	3%	2%	-1
Crime / Public Safety	1%	1%	=
Municipal Funding, Services, & Powers	1%	1%	=
Day Care / Child Care	1%	1%	=
Drug Traffic / Drug Use	1%	1%	=
Energy / Electricity	1%	1%	+1
Aboriginal Affairs	0%	0%	=
Other	4%	3%	-1

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### BC Political Scene

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people? –  
*Change since May 9-10, 2013*

	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
Premier and BC Liberals leader Christy Clark	34% (+1)	58% (+-3)	8% (+2)
Official Opposition and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Adrian Dix	42% (=)	47% (=)	11% (-1)
Green Party leader Jane Sterk	42% (+3)	28% (-3)	30% (=)
BC Conservative Party leader John Cummins	20% (-1)	52% (-2)	28% (+3)

### BC Political Scene

In the past three months, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, stayed the same, or worsened?

	Improved	Stayed the same	Worsened	Not sure	Momentum Score
Premier and BC Liberals leader Christy Clark	15%	33%	46%	6%	-31
Official Opposition and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Adrian Dix	21%	37%	34%	8%	-13
Green Party leader Jane Sterk	23%	51%	9%	17%	+14
BC Conservative Party leader John Cummins	7%	50%	26%	17%	-19

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## BC Political Scene

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view? –  
*Change since May 9-10, 2013*

	All BC	Respondents who voted for the NDP in the 2009 Election	Respondents who voted for the BC Liberals in the 2009 Election
It is time for a change in government in British Columbia—a different provincial party should be elected into power	58% (+1)	91% (+3)	29% (+3)
It is not time for a change in government in British Columbia—the BC Liberals should be re-elected	28% (-2)	6% (-1)	56% (-4)
Not sure	14% (+1)	3% (-2)	15% (+2)

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