

**WITH THREE WEEKS TO ELECTION DAY THE TIGHT
RACE TILTS TORY (33%, +1 POINT) OVER LIBERALS
(32%, -1 POINT)**

*NDP (18%, +2 Points), Green Party (5%, Unchanged) – In Quebec
Bloc Quebecois (52%, -2 Points) Dominates*

*Momentum For Tories Nationally (+8 Points) And Vote
Intentions In Ontario (38% vs. 36% Liberals) Gives Tories Edge
Heading Into 2006*



Ipsos Reid

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Ontario (38% vs. 36% Liberals) Gives Tories Edge Heading Into 2006*

Toronto, ON - With the federal election now entering 2006 and its final stage, a new national Ipsos Reid survey, conducted on behalf of CanWest News Service/Global News, shows that while the Conservative and Liberal parties are in a virtual tie when it comes to vote support the underlying dynamics suggest that it is the Conservative campaign which has traction and momentum.

According to the survey, if a federal election were held tomorrow, 33% of voters would cast their ballot in support of the Conservatives (+1 point from last week's survey), 32% would vote for the Liberals (32%, -1 point), 18% would vote for the NDP (+2 points), and 5% would vote for the Green Party (unchanged). In Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois attract more than half of federal votes (52%, -2 points).

Currently four in ten Canadians (42%, +5 points) agree with the statement "I'd be comfortable voting for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to form the government in the next election because we'll probably have another minority which will keep them in check" - 44% of Ontarians agree with this statement.

And just one-third of Canadians (32%, -7 points) now agree with the statement "I'd be comfortable voting for Paul Martin and the Liberals in the next election because they will govern very differently next time due to the lessons they learned from the Gomery Inquiry" (11% strongly agree).



As Stephen and the Conservatives continue to build positive momentum nationally (+8 points, up 4 points from the previous sounding), they appear to have made their strongest momentum gains in Quebec (+12 points) and among Bloc Quebecois supporters (+17 points). Meanwhile, momentum for Paul Martin and the Liberals has dropped substantially (-14 points from the last survey) and is now strongly negative nationally (-35 points).

Further, momentum appears to be on the side of actual voters going to the polls: When asked how likely they are to vote in the upcoming federal election, Conservative supporters (68%) are more likely than Liberal supporters (60%) to say they are “absolutely certain”. This group is particularly relevant because they generally reflect the opinions of those Canadians who will actually turn-out to vote on January 23rd.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from December 29th to December 30th 2005. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,000 adult Canadians were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 2001 Census data.



Tight Race Tilts Tory (33%, +1 Point) Over Liberals (32%, -1 Point)...

If a federal election were held tomorrow, 33% of voters would cast their ballot in support of the Conservatives (+1 point from last week’s survey), 32% would vote for the Liberals (-1 point), 18% would vote for the NDP (+2 points), and 5% would vote for the Green Party (unchanged).

In Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois (52%, -2 points) have a 26-point lead over the Liberals (26%, +2 points).

Ten percent of all Canadians are undecided, refused to say whom they would vote for, or don’t know (-2 points from the last survey).

Parties	Election Results June 28, 2004	Nov 28- Dec 1, 2005	Dec 6- 8, 2005	Dec 9- 11, 2005	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Movement From Last Poll	Since 2004 Election
The Conservative Party	30%	31%	30%	27%	32%	33%	1%	3%
The Liberals	37%	33%	34%	36%	33%	32%	-1%	-5%
The New Democratic Party	16%	17%	16%	17%	16%	18%	2%	2%
The Bloc Quebecois	12%	14%	14%	14%	13%	12%	-1%	0%
The Green Party	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	1%

Regional Highlights...

- In Ontario, the Conservatives (38%, unchanged) now register the highest vote support, as the Liberals (36%, -4 points) have stumbled.
- In Quebec, the Conservatives (12%, +5 points) may be making some in-roads, as the Liberals (26%, +2 points) and the Bloc Quebecois (52%, -2 points) remain static – the NDP (6%, -4 points) are down in this province.



- Voter volatility remains high in British Columbia, as the NDP (34%, +9 points), the Liberals (33%, -7 points) and the Conservatives (28%, -2 points) continue to wage a closely fought battle in this province.

For full regional tables please refer to last pages of report.

Sixty-two Percent “Absolutely Certain” To Vote...

When asked how likely they are to vote in the upcoming federal election, 63% of Canadians say they are “absolutely certain” (+3 points from the last survey) – this proportion is consistent with voter turn-out results in the 2004 election (61% of eligible voters cast their ballot in this election).

	Dec 22nd, 2005	Dec 30th, 2005	Change
Absolutely certain	60%	63%	3%
Very likely	19%	18%	-1%
Somewhat likely	8%	8%	0%
Not very likely	3%	3%	0%
Not at all likely	8%	7%	-1%
Don't know	1%	1%	0%

% Absolutely Certain					
BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
64%	66%	60%	64%	65%	51%

- Residents of Alberta (66%) are the most likely to be “absolutely certain” to vote, while residents of Atlantic Canada (51%) are the least likely to be “absolutely certain”.

% Absolutely Certain				
CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
68%	60%	68%	70%	51%

- Bloc Quebecois supporters (70%) are the most likely to be “absolutely certain” to vote, while Green (51%) and Liberal (60%) supporters are the least likely to be “absolutely certain”.



Party and Party Leader Momentum...

As part of the survey, Ipsos-Reid asked Canadians whether their opinions of the various major parties and their leaders has improved, stayed the same, or worsened over the last few weeks. The results from this question were used to track changes in “momentum”¹ from previous national surveys.

	REGION						
	TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
IMPROVED							
Paul Martin and the Liberals	15%	20%	8%	18%	18%	11%	16%
Stephen Harper and the Conservatives	36%	31%	57%	38%	37%	34%	22%
Jack Layton and the NDP	33%	34%	30%	33%	35%	29%	38%
Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	38%	-	-	-	-	38%	-
STAYED THE SAME							
Paul Martin and the Liberals	28%	34%	21%	29%	29%	27%	30%
Stephen Harper and the Conservatives	27%	30%	20%	20%	26%	29%	40%
Jack Layton and the NDP	34%	40%	39%	34%	33%	31%	29%
Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	38%	-	-	-	-	38%	-
WORSENERD							
Paul Martin and the Liberals	50%	43%	66%	51%	47%	54%	40%
Stephen Harper and the Conservatives	28%	32%	19%	39%	30%	26%	23%
Jack Layton and the NDP	19%	17%	15%	26%	21%	20%	11%
Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	15%	-	-	-	-	15%	-

Momentum for Paul Martin and the Liberals has dropped substantially (-14 points from the last survey) and is now strongly negative nationally (-35 points).

Liberal Party momentum has dropped most substantially in the province of Alberta (-24 points) and in Atlantic Canada (-20 points). Among Liberal supporters momentum has worsened by 15 points.



Paul Martin / Liberal Party	REGION							VOTE INTENTION				
	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	QUE	AT	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum Nov 29, 2005	-27%	-29%	-42%	-23%	-21%	-39%	0%	-66%	34%	-38%	-70%	-29%
Momentum Dec 22, 2005	-21%	-13%	-34%	-28%	-17%	-30%	-4%	-63%	33%	-34%	-50%	-16%
Momentum Dec 30, 2005	-35%	-23%	-58%	-33%	-29%	-43%	-24%	-67%	18%	-39%	-73%	-44%
Change	-14%	-10%	-24%	-5%	-12%	-13%	-20%	-4%	-15%	-5%	-23%	-28%

Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party continue to gain momentum (+4 points change from the last survey) and now have a good foundation of positive momentum nationally (+8 points).

The Conservatives have made the strongest gains in Quebec (+12 points) and among Bloc Quebecois supporters (+17 points).

Stephen Harper / Conservative Party	REGION							VOTE INTENTION				
	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	QUE	AT	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum Nov 29, 2005	2%	-1%	27%	5%	-3%	3%	-9%	56%	-40%	-20%	11%	-9%
Momentum Dec 22, 2005	4%	-8%	35%	-4%	9%	-4%	-4%	57%	-28%	-26%	-7%	-10%
Momentum Dec 30, 2005	8%	-1%	38%	-1%	7%	8%	-1%	66%	-22%	-34%	10%	-14%
Change	4%	7%	3%	3%	-2%	12%	3%	9%	6%	-8%	17%	-4%

Jack Layton and the NDP have strong positive momentum overall (+14) points and continue to maintain steady momentum (-2 points from the last survey).

Jack Layton / NDP	REGION							VOTE INTENTION				
	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	QUE	AT	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum Nov 29, 2005	17%	11%	13%	11%	22%	19%	8%	13%	-2%	55%	26%	24%
Momentum Dec 22, 2005	16%	18%	33%	12%	17%	8%	17%	9%	13%	54%	-2%	29%
Momentum Dec 30, 2005	14%	17%	15%	7%	14%	9%	27%	8%	11%	49%	3%	25%
Change	-2%	-1%	-18%	-5%	-3%	1%	10%	-1%	-2%	-5%	5%	-4%

Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois have moved little in terms of their campaign momentum in Quebec (+23 points, down 1 point from the last survey).

¹ "Momentum" is calculated by subtracting the percentage who have a negative impression of the leader and party from the percentage who have a positive impression.



Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	REGION			VOTE INTENTION		
	QUE	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum Nov 29, 2005	38%	33%	-14%	28%	70%	15%
Momentum Dec 22, 2005	24%	3%	-27%	41%	53%	22%
Momentum Dec 30, 2005	23%	5%	-18%	-2%	59%	35%
Change	-1%	2%	9%	-43%	6%	13%

Smaller Proportion Of Canadians (32%, -7 Points) Now Say They Feel Comfortable Voting For Liberals Because Of Lessons Learned By Gomery...

Just one-third of Canadians (32%, -7 points) now agree with the statement “I'd be comfortable voting for Paul Martin and the Liberals in the next election because they will govern very differently next time due to the lessons they learned from the Gomery Inquiry” (11% strongly agree). A majority of two-thirds (65%) disagrees with this statement – with nearly half (46%) strongly disagreeing.

I'd be comfortable voting for Paul Martin and the Liberals in the next election because they will govern very differently next time due to the lessons they learned from the Gomery Inquiry?								
Agree		TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
		Nov 15th, '05	35%	41%	19%	36%	40%	29%
	Dec 2nd, '05	39%	40%	30%	39%	41%	33%	49%
	Dec 30 th , '05	32%	36%	12%	28%	39%	27%	43%
	Change	-7%	-4%	-18%	-11%	-2%	-6%	-6%

- Agreement has dropped most sharply in the prairie provinces of Alberta (-18 points) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (-11 points).

Four In Ten (42%, +5 Points) Agree They Feel Comfortable Voting For The Tories In Next Election Because Minority Will Keep Them In Check...

Four in ten Canadians (42%, +5 points) agree with the statement “I'd be comfortable voting for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to form the government in the next election because we'll probably have another minority which will keep them in check” (15% strongly agree). Half (53%) disagree with this statement (31% strongly disagree).



I'd be comfortable voting for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to form the government in the next election because we'll probably have another minority which will keep them in check?								
Agree		Total	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
	Nov 15th, '05	39%	30%	62%	52%	39%	33%	32%
	Nov 24th, '05	42%	41%	57%	47%	45%	31%	43%
	Dec 2nd, '05	37%	38%	27%	37%	41%	32%	45%
	Dec 30 th , '05	42%	39%	61%	46%	44%	35%	36%
	Change	5%	1%	34%	9%	3%	3%	-9%

- Agreement with this statement has risen most in Alberta (+34 points) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (+9 points).
- Forty-four percent of Ontarians agree with this statement.

Regional Tables...

N=354	Ontario		
	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	38%	38%	0%
The Liberals	40%	36%	-4%
The NDP	15%	19%	4%
The Green Party	6%	5%	-1%

N=207	Quebec		
	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	7%	12%	5%
The Liberals	24%	26%	2%
The NDP	10%	6%	-4%
The Bloc Quebecois	54%	52%	-2%
The Green Party	2%	5%	3%



N=129	British Columbia		
	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	30%	28%	-2%
The Liberals	40%	33%	-7%
The NDP	25%	34%	9%
The Green Party	5%	5%	0%

N=89	Alberta		
	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	63%	63%	0%
The Liberals	16%	11%	-5%
The NDP	13%	12%	-1%
The Green Party	9%	10%	1%

N=62	Saskatchewan/Manitoba		
	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	44%	45%	1%
The Liberals	34%	28%	-6%
The NDP	18%	25%	7%
The Green Party	3%	0%	-3%

N=71	Atlantic Canada		
	Dec 20-22, 2005	Dec 29-30, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	32%	29%	-3%
The Liberals	45%	50%	5%
The NDP	20%	19%	-1%
The Green Party	3%	1%	-2%



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For more information on this news release, please contact:

*Dr. Darrell Bricker
President & COO
Ipsos Reid Public Affairs*

*John Wright
Senior Vice President
Ipsos Reid Public Affairs
(416) 324-2900*

*Alexandra Evershed
Vice President
Ipsos Reid Public Affairs
(613) 241-5802*

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