



NEWS RELEASE

Canadians Say “No” to an Early Vote *Expect and Desire another Minority Think Liberals Will Win*

Election Timing

If the opposition parties force an election before Justice Gomery issues his final report in February, they will be doing so in the face of strong public opinion. By a margin of more than two-to-one Canadians would prefer to wait until the spring to vote rather than going to the polls as soon as possible. Still, very few Canadians say that we don't need an election any time soon: just 13%.

The results are part of an EKOS/Toronto Star/La Presse poll conducted earlier this week.

Even supporters of the Bloc Québécois and the Conservative Party, which have been pushing for an election since last spring, are decisively in favour of waiting until the spring to vote, though by somewhat smaller margins than the public as a whole.

Among the opposition parties, the NDP has wavered between support for and opposition to continuing the current parliament. By a substantial margin Canadians say they prefer the NDP to work with the Liberal government to keep this parliament going rather than with the other opposition parties to force an early election. Among Canadians who are currently planning to vote NDP, or who consider the NDP as their second choice, support for keeping the current parliament alive is as strong or stronger.

Imagining the Next Government

Part of the reason Canadians may not be in a rush to the polls is that they do not think an election will greatly change the kind of government they have, nor do they particularly believe that it should.

By a margin of almost three-to-one Canadians expect a Liberal victory in the next election – a result that may overstate the actual odds, given how closely the parties are matched at the moment. By a huge margin, Canadians say they expect the next government to be another minority – and for the most

OTTAWA OFFICE
99 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L7
T: 613.235.7215
F: 613.235.8498

TORONTO OFFICE
480 University Avenue, Suite 1006
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2
T: 416.598.8002
F: 416.598.2543

EDMONTON OFFICE
9925 109th St. NW, Suite 606
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
T: 780.408.5225
F: 780.408.5233

part, they think that is a good thing. Those who prefer a minority government now outnumber those who prefer a majority government, the reverse of the historical pattern.

“The willingness of Canadians to see another minority government seems to reflect their dissatisfaction with the options they are being presented with,” said Frank Graves, President of EKOS Research Associates. “At the moment, they don’t want any party getting comfortably seated in power.”

METHODOLOGY:

These data are based on telephone interviews conducted Nov 7 to Nov 9, 2005 with a random sample of 1275 Canadians aged 18 and over. A sample of this size provides a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as regions).

All the data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample’s regional, gender and age composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.