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A BRIEF UPDATE OF LAST THREE DAYS: NDP SURGE CONTINUES AS WE APPROACH A CLONED PARLIAMENT

CONSERVATIVE LEAD WIDENS TO 12.5 POINTS

[Ottawa – April 18, 2011] – The weekends are always difficult times to poll on vote intention but as we are in the final two weeks of the campaign, we have decided to do so. Based on some 2,350 cases from Friday to Sunday, the top line results show the Conservatives at 37.4 – ahead of their end of last week position – and now showing a clear advantage over the Liberals who, at 24.9 points, have fallen back to their position coming out of the 2008 election.

The NDP, meanwhile, continues to follow an upward trend line and, at 20.0 points, they are the only party to have clearly demonstrated upward momentum throughout the campaign (which they began around 6 points below their current standing). The NDP are also ahead of their position in 2008 and they seem to be benefitting from growth with younger and women voters and these gains have been partly drawn from the Green Party and the Bloc, who appear to have stopped the bleeding and are now holding steady at 31.9 points in Quebec.

There is some instability apparent in the numbers, which suggests that things can still change. While support for national direction has improved, support for the current government in Canada has reached a low point for the campaign. So far, it is the NDP who have tapped into this growing disaffection for the incumbent government, but it could be a force in the final stages of the campaign. The regional patterns show the Conservatives ahead in a volatile race in British Columbia with the NDP performing well. The Conservatives dominate Alberta and the Prairies and they have moved eight points up on the Liberals in the crucial Ontario race. The Quebec race is quite unsettled with the NDP reaching new heights at 25.4 points. Atlantic Canada remains a tight two-way race with the Liberals enjoying a slim advantage over the Conservatives.

When we focus on those who “absolutely certain to vote”, we end up with a result which is eerily

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National federal vote intention*:**
 - ☒ 37.4% CPC
 - ☒ 24.9% LPC
 - ☒ 20.0% NDP
 - ☒ 8.4% Green
 - ☒ 7.8% BQ
 - ☒ 1.5% other
- **Direction of country:**
 - ☒ 53.2% right direction
 - ☒ 37.3% wrong direction
 - ☒ 9.6% DK/NR
- **Direction of government:**
 - ☒ 40.1% right direction
 - ☒ 48.3% wrong direction
 - ☒ 11.5% DK/NR
- **Second choice:**
 - ☒ 7.1% CPC
 - ☒ 18.1% LPC
 - ☒ 26.7% NDP
 - ☒ 12.3% Green
 - ☒ 3.6% BQ
 - ☒ 2.1% other
 - ☒ 30.1% no second choice

**Decided voters only: 7.6% of respondents are undecided and 2.9% are ineligible to vote.*

Please note that the methodology is provided at the end of this document.

similar to the 2008 election. All parties are very close and the Conservatives and Liberals are both at almost exactly their last election performance. This would generate almost near-clone Parliament with the Liberals and the Conservatives having almost precisely the same seats. Despite this appearance of remarkable stability, there is ample evidence that there is still room for significant twists and turns in the final two weeks. At the beginning of week four, this is a poll which is very favourable for the NDP and the Conservatives, but not very encouraging for the Liberals. Weekend polls can be funny creatures though, and we will be watching things closely as the week unfolds.

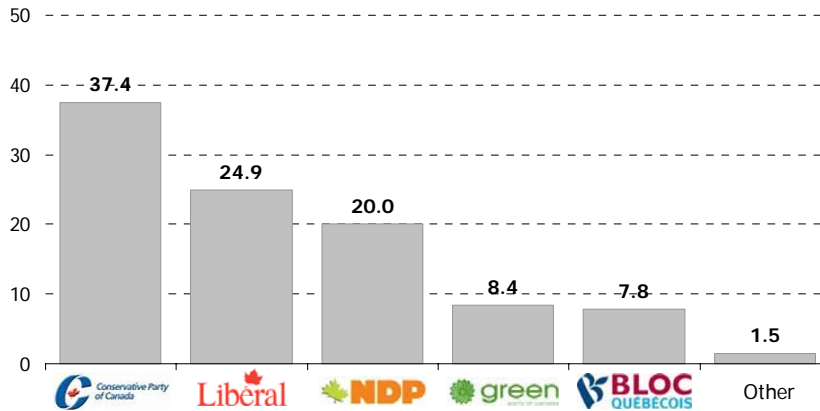


Top Line Results:

Federal vote intention



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 10.5% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

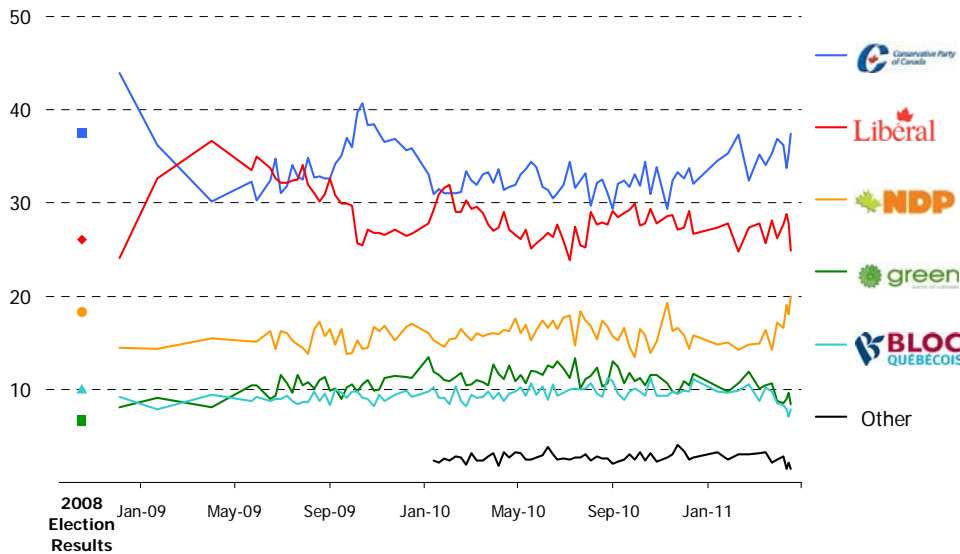
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BASE: Decided voters; April 15-17, 2011 (2,019)

Weekly tracking of federal vote intention



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 10.5% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

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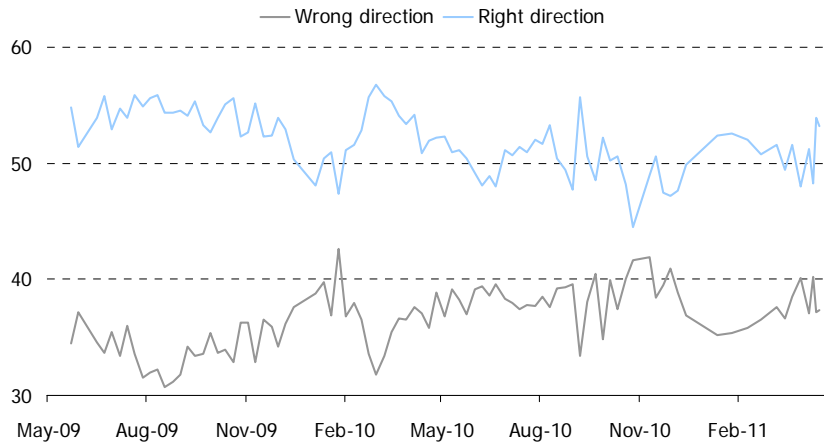
BASE: Decided voters; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=2,019)



Direction of country



Q. All things considered, would you say the country is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?



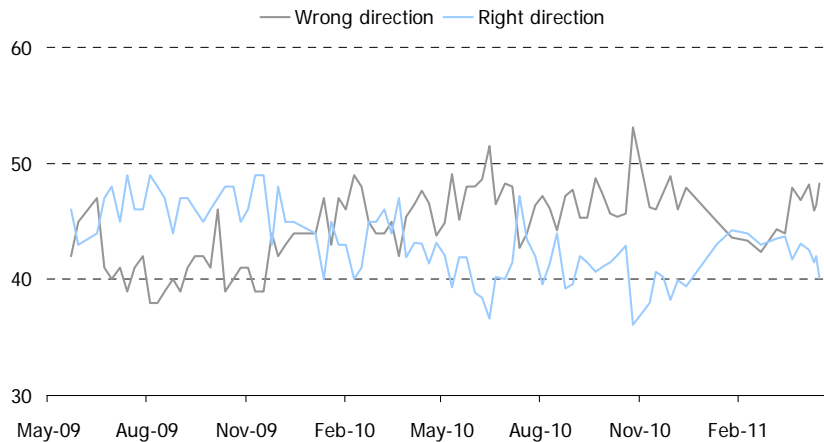
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BASE: Canadians; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=half sample)

Direction of government



Q. All things considered, would you say the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

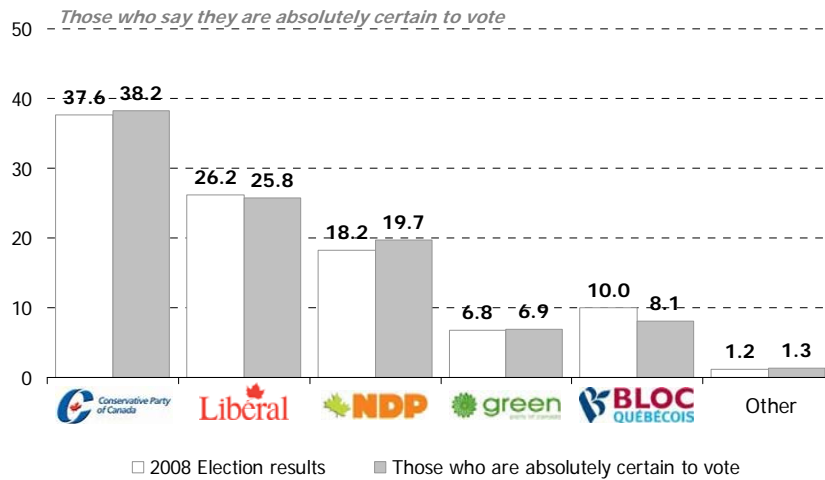


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BASE: Canadians; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=half sample)

Federal vote intention by likelihood of voting

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 4.1% of eligible voters who are absolutely certain to vote are undecided.

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BASE: Eligible voters who say they are absolutely certain to vote; April 15-17, 2011 (1,803)

Second choice

Q. Which party would be your second choice?

SECOND CHOICE	Second Choice (overall)	FIRST CHOICE					
		CPC	LPC	NDP	GP	BQ	Other
	7.1	--	12.5	11.6	9.0	9.1	21.0
	18.1	21.5	--	41.3	18.1	14.0	7.4
	26.7	20.8	51.8	--	40.0	44.3	27.4
	12.3	9.9	15.7	21.1	--	9.1	22.0
	3.6	1.9	1.5	9.5	7.1	--	5.8
Other	2.1	2.7	1.0	1.1	2.8	1.0	--
No second choice	30.1	43.1	17.4	15.4	23.0	22.5	16.4

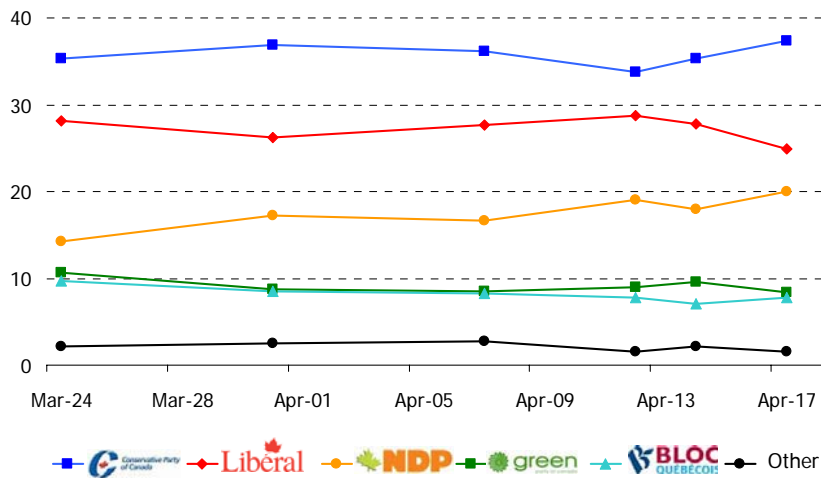
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BASE: Eligible voters; April 15-17, 2011 (n=2,200)

Federal vote intention



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 10.5% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

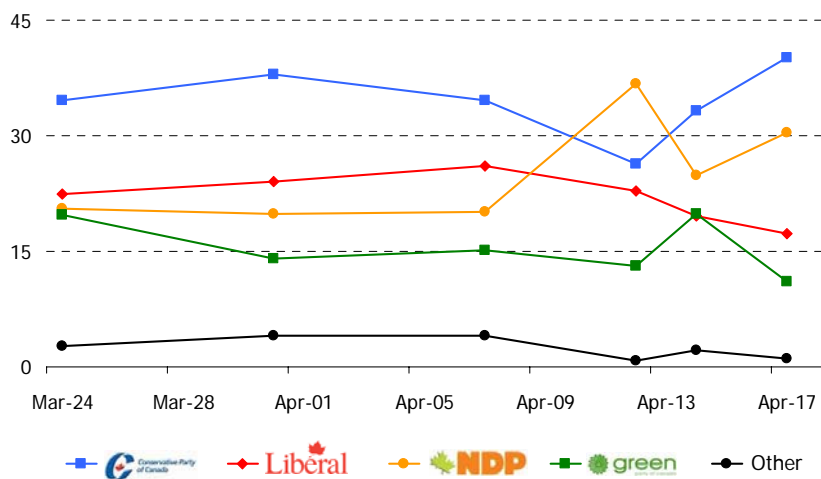
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BASE: Decided voters; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=2,019)

Federal vote intention: British Columbia



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 7.5% of British Columbians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

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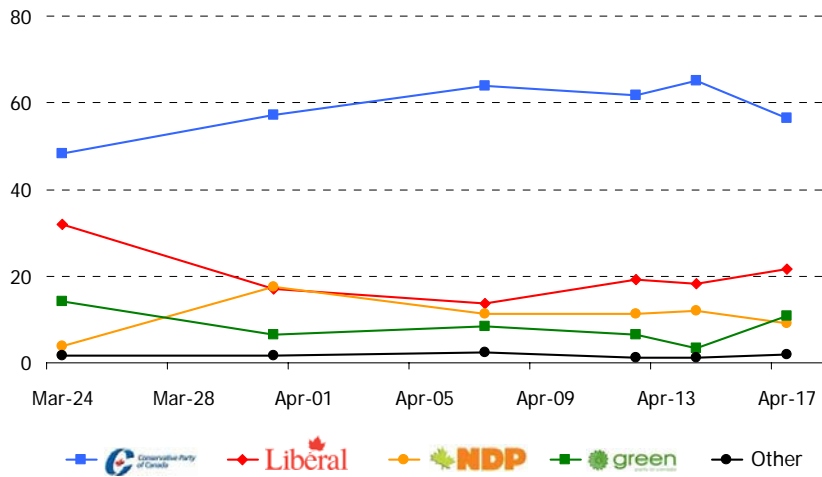
BASE: Decided voters in British Columbia; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=152)



Federal vote intention: Alberta



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 11.2% of Albertans are undecided/ineligible to vote.

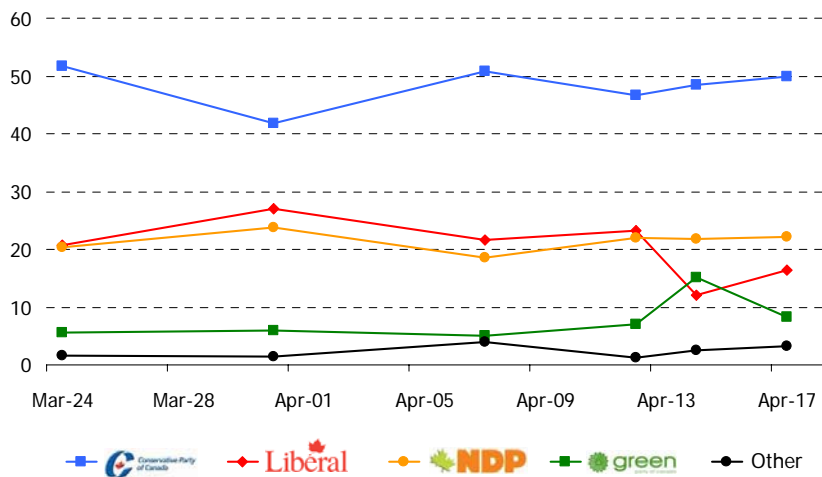
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BASE: Decided voters in Alberta; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=159)

Federal vote intention: Saskatchewan/Manitoba



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 11.3% of Saskatchewanians and Manitobans are undecided/ineligible to vote.

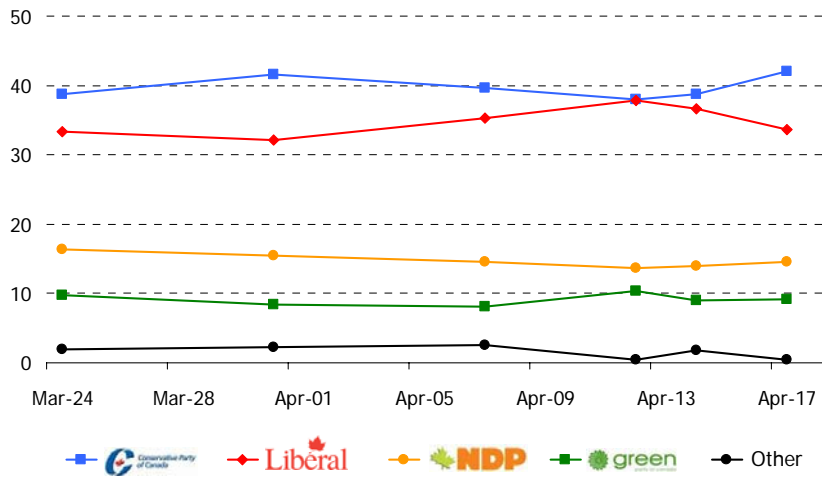
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BASE: Decided voters in Saskatchewan/Manitoba; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=143)

Federal vote intention: Ontario



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 9.7% of Ontarians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

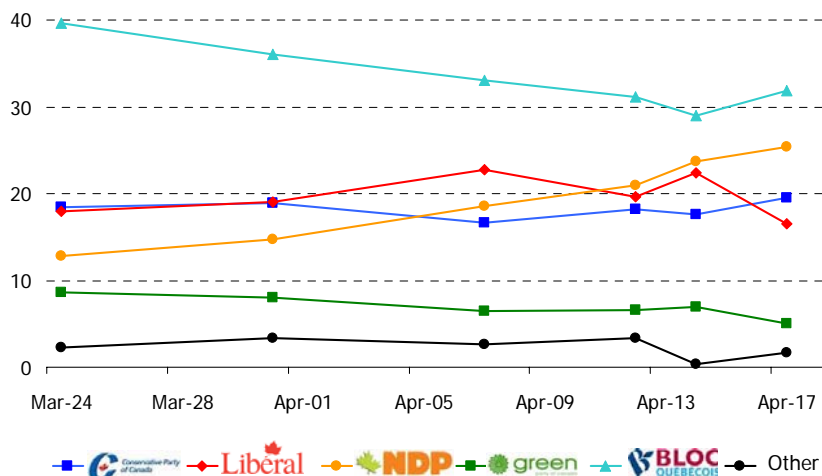
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BASE: Decided voters in Ontario; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=808)

Federal vote intention: Quebec



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 11.2% of Quebecers are undecided/ineligible to vote.

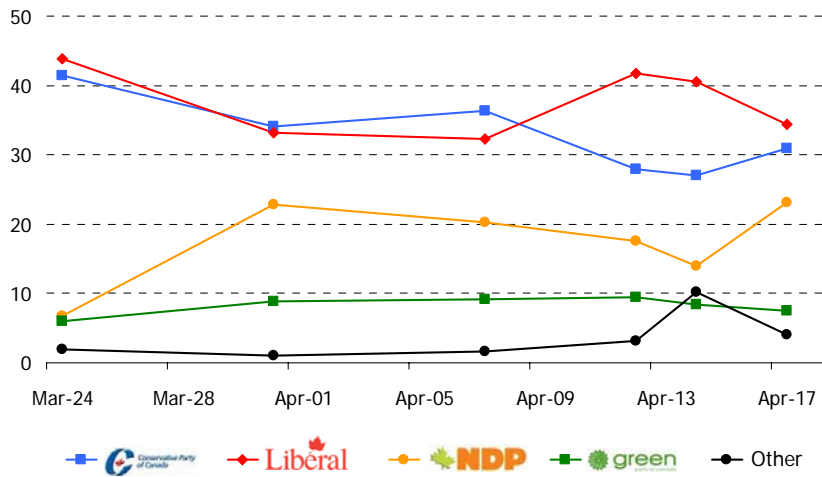
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BASE: Decided voters in Quebec; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=633)

Federal vote intention: Atlantic Canada



Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?








Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only. Our survey also finds that 14.9% of Atlantic Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

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BASE: Decided voters in Atlantic Canada; most recent data point April 15-17, 2011 (n=124)

Detailed Tables:

<u>National Federal Vote Intention</u>								
<i>Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?</i>								
						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	37.4%	24.9%	20.0%	8.4%	7.8%	1.5%	2019	2.2
REGION								
British Columbia	40.1%	17.3%	30.4%	11.1%	0.0%	1.1%	152	8.0
Alberta	56.5%	21.6%	9.1%	10.9%	0.0%	1.9%	159	7.8
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	50.0%	16.4%	22.2%	8.2%	0.0%	3.3%	143	8.2
Ontario	42.1%	33.6%	14.6%	9.2%	0.0%	0.5%	808	3.5
Quebec	19.5%	16.5%	25.4%	5.0%	31.9%	1.7%	633	3.9
Atlantic Canada	30.9%	34.4%	23.1%	7.5%	0.0%	4.1%	124	8.8
GENDER								
Male	41.6%	24.6%	17.7%	7.1%	7.1%	1.8%	1058	3.0
Female	33.3%	25.3%	22.1%	9.6%	8.6%	1.1%	961	3.2
AGE								
<25	25.5%	24.6%	29.9%	10.5%	7.2%	2.4%	100	9.8
25-44	33.3%	23.6%	21.2%	9.3%	10.5%	2.1%	570	4.1
45-64	40.9%	24.1%	18.8%	7.6%	7.6%	1.1%	884	3.3
65+	45.6%	29.5%	14.3%	7.0%	3.3%	0.3%	465	4.5
EDUCATION								
High school or less	43.2%	16.0%	19.1%	8.0%	10.3%	3.4%	518	4.3
College or CEGEP	41.8%	20.9%	20.6%	7.3%	8.6%	0.8%	658	3.8
University or higher	30.8%	33.0%	19.9%	9.4%	5.9%	0.9%	843	3.4
METROPOLITAN CANADA								
Vancouver	42.1%	16.3%	37.9%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	44	14.8
Calgary	47.6%	36.7%	4.2%	9.1%	0.0%	2.4%	48	14.1
Toronto	43.5%	35.3%	11.3%	9.6%	0.0%	0.4%	234	6.4
Ottawa	41.0%	43.5%	9.0%	5.4%	0.0%	1.1%	75	11.3
Montreal	14.6%	21.7%	20.6%	6.1%	35.7%	1.3%	187	7.2





Federal Vote Intention – British Columbia

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	40.1%	17.3%	30.4%	11.1%	1.1%	152	8.0
GENDER							
Male	36.0%	19.4%	31.0%	10.4%	3.2%	77	11.2
Female	41.3%	16.3%	27.7%	14.7%	0.0%	75	11.3
AGE							
<25	22.5%	0.0%	55.3%	22.2%	0.0%	9	32.7
25-44	35.2%	24.3%	21.5%	16.3%	2.6%	37	16.1
45-64	43.5%	17.6%	30.8%	6.4%	1.6%	62	12.5
65+	47.7%	16.1%	24.9%	11.3%	0.0%	44	14.8
EDUCATION							
High school or less	55.5%	4.0%	23.9%	12.4%	4.1%	36	16.3
College or CEGEP	42.2%	17.0%	27.9%	11.0%	1.9%	44	14.8
University or higher	27.9%	25.3%	32.9%	13.9%	0.0%	72	11.6

Federal Vote Intention – Alberta





Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	56.5%	21.6%	9.1%	10.9%	1.9%	159	7.8
GENDER							
Male	58.1%	22.6%	5.2%	10.6%	3.6%	86	10.6
Female	54.4%	20.8%	13.2%	11.6%	0.0%	73	11.5
AGE							
<25	45.9%	20.8%	12.6%	20.8%	0.0%	9	32.7
25-44	48.3%	35.1%	6.4%	6.4%	3.8%	49	14.0
45-64	61.9%	17.5%	8.7%	11.9%	0.0%	69	11.8
65+	65.5%	6.2%	13.0%	12.4%	2.8%	32	17.3
EDUCATION							
High school or less	66.2%	13.9%	12.4%	7.5%	0.0%	33	17.1
College or CEGEP	67.1%	10.8%	7.7%	13.1%	1.3%	66	12.1
University or higher	39.5%	37.3%	8.9%	10.9%	3.3%	60	12.7







Federal Vote Intention – Saskatchewan/Manitoba

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	50.0%	16.4%	22.2%	8.2%	3.3%	143	8.2
GENDER							
Male	54.8%	16.6%	22.0%	6.6%	0.0%	78	11.1
Female	44.2%	14.9%	21.1%	11.3%	8.6%	65	12.2
AGE							
<25	28.0%	14.0%	28.0%	14.0%	16.0%	7	37.0
25-44	57.9%	16.3%	12.4%	9.0%	4.5%	24	20.0
45-64	50.9%	14.9%	23.9%	8.8%	1.6%	68	11.9
65+	47.7%	18.4%	29.4%	4.6%	0.0%	44	14.8
EDUCATION							
High school or less	57.5%	7.6%	20.7%	3.0%	11.2%	48	14.1
College or CEGEP	54.5%	9.0%	22.4%	12.1%	2.1%	35	16.6
University or higher	41.3%	26.6%	21.7%	10.5%	0.0%	60	12.7

Federal Vote Intention – Ontario






Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	42.1%	33.6%	14.6%	9.2%	0.5%	808	3.5
GENDER							
Male	48.5%	30.9%	13.3%	7.0%	0.3%	440	4.7
Female	34.6%	36.2%	16.6%	11.7%	0.8%	368	5.1
AGE							
<25	30.0%	39.0%	17.3%	13.7%	0.0%	27	18.9
25-44	35.6%	31.8%	20.6%	11.3%	0.8%	192	7.1
45-64	45.8%	30.9%	14.0%	8.5%	0.7%	381	5.0
65+	49.7%	40.1%	4.7%	5.5%	0.0%	208	6.8
EDUCATION							
High school or less	48.7%	22.1%	17.9%	11.3%	0.0%	175	7.4
College or CEGEP	47.2%	28.4%	17.4%	6.8%	0.3%	244	6.3
University or higher	35.2%	41.3%	12.4%	10.1%	0.9%	389	5.0







Federal Vote Intention – Quebec

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	19.5%	16.5%	25.4%	5.0%	31.9%	1.7%	633	3.9
GENDER								
Male	23.0%	17.3%	22.5%	6.4%	29.3%	1.5%	317	5.5
Female	16.8%	18.8%	26.1%	3.2%	34.0%	1.1%	316	5.5
AGE								
<25	16.0%	21.5%	36.9%	2.3%	22.3%	1.1%	43	14.9
25-44	21.8%	11.2%	25.8%	6.5%	31.4%	3.3%	237	6.4
45-64	16.2%	18.9%	23.2%	4.7%	37.1%	0.0%	253	6.2
65+	26.1%	28.9%	15.2%	3.0%	26.8%	0.0%	100	9.8
EDUCATION								
High school or less	22.3%	15.1%	16.1%	4.9%	38.5%	3.1%	183	7.2
College or CEGEP	22.1%	19.3%	24.8%	4.8%	28.4%	0.5%	226	6.5
University or higher	15.3%	19.1%	30.7%	4.6%	29.6%	0.8%	224	6.6

Federal Vote Intention – Atlantic Canada

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	30.9%	34.4%	23.1%	7.5%	4.1%	124	8.8
GENDER							
Male	34.5%	36.2%	19.1%	1.4%	8.8%	60	12.7
Female	27.4%	31.3%	27.8%	13.5%	0.0%	64	12.3
AGE							
<25	19.8%	60.4%	0.0%	0.0%	19.8%	5	43.8
25-44	32.1%	25.6%	32.4%	9.9%	0.0%	31	17.6
45-64	33.4%	29.5%	23.6%	5.9%	7.7%	51	13.7
65+	29.5%	45.8%	16.4%	8.3%	0.0%	37	16.1
EDUCATION							
High school or less	24.3%	26.6%	27.4%	8.6%	13.1%	43	14.9
College or CEGEP	40.2%	32.3%	22.7%	4.8%	0.0%	43	14.9
University or higher	27.9%	43.8%	19.7%	8.7%	0.0%	38	15.9


Direction of Country

Q. All things considered, would you say the country is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	53.2%	37.3%	9.6%	1096	3.0
REGION					
British Columbia	44.5%	38.7%	16.8%	77	11.2
Alberta	66.6%	25.2%	8.2%	78	11.1
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	61.0%	29.3%	9.7%	77	11.2
Ontario	57.1%	34.6%	8.3%	432	4.7
Quebec	47.3%	46.7%	6.0%	371	5.1
Atlantic Canada	43.9%	37.3%	18.9%	61	12.6
GENDER					
Male	59.7%	32.6%	7.7%	574	4.1
Female	46.5%	42.0%	11.5%	522	4.3
AGE					
<25	54.9%	39.9%	5.2%	60	12.7
25-44	52.6%	39.0%	8.4%	302	5.6
45-64	53.7%	38.4%	7.9%	488	4.4
65+	52.0%	29.6%	18.4%	246	6.3
EDUCATION					
High school or less	53.7%	30.1%	16.2%	310	5.6
College or CEGEP	58.2%	32.7%	9.1%	344	5.3
University or higher	49.0%	45.0%	5.9%	442	4.7
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	88.5%	5.4%	6.1%	365	5.1
Liberal Party of Canada	33.7%	58.9%	7.4%	236	6.4
NDP	33.7%	55.0%	11.3%	181	7.3
Green Party	47.2%	49.2%	3.6%	79	11.0
Bloc Quebecois	33.9%	60.2%	5.9%	111	9.3
Undecided	25.3%	70.7%	4.0%	12	28.3

Direction of Government






Q. All things considered, would you say the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	40.1%	48.3%	11.5%	1150	2.9
REGION					
British Columbia	40.0%	48.1%	11.8%	89	10.4
Alberta	52.7%	35.3%	12.0%	98	9.9
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	50.7%	38.8%	10.5%	82	10.8
Ontario	47.5%	41.4%	11.1%	445	4.7
Quebec	21.1%	68.0%	10.9%	354	5.2
Atlantic Canada	35.9%	49.1%	15.0%	82	10.8
GENDER					
Male	43.3%	49.3%	7.3%	566	4.1
Female	37.4%	47.5%	15.2%	584	4.1
AGE					
<25	33.1%	48.9%	18.0%	68	11.9
25-44	34.7%	54.3%	11.0%	336	5.4
45-64	42.6%	49.1%	8.3%	478	4.5
65+	51.3%	34.6%	14.1%	268	6.0
EDUCATION					
High school or less	44.4%	40.5%	15.1%	306	5.6
College or CEGEP	37.4%	48.7%	13.9%	389	5.0
University or higher	39.6%	53.2%	7.1%	455	4.6
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	83.8%	9.1%	7.1%	391	5.0
Liberal Party of Canada	20.6%	71.2%	8.2%	259	6.1
NDP	20.1%	68.6%	11.3%	195	7.0
Green Party	21.6%	66.7%	11.7%	73	11.5
Bloc Quebecois	3.7%	85.4%	10.9%	104	9.6
Undecided	9.7%	68.1%	22.2%	13	27.2



Second Choice

Q. Talking again in terms of a federal election, which party would be your second choice?

						Other	No 2 nd choice	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	7%	18%	27%	12%	4%	2%	30%	2200	2.1
REGION									
British Columbia	6%	20%	21%	19%	0%	1%	32%	162	7.7
Alberta	6%	12%	20%	14%	0%	4%	43%	173	7.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	5%	15%	24%	14%	0%	3%	37%	156	7.9
Ontario	6%	20%	28%	12%	0%	3%	32%	860	3.3
Quebec	8%	19%	29%	9%	15%	1%	20%	710	3.7
Atlantic Canada	10%	14%	36%	10%	0%	1%	29%	139	8.3
GENDER									
Male	5%	17%	27%	13%	4%	3%	30%	1124	2.9
Female	9%	19%	26%	11%	3%	2%	30%	1076	3.0
AGE									
<25	4%	26%	23%	11%	3%	1%	32%	112	9.3
25-44	8%	19%	24%	15%	6%	3%	26%	628	3.9
45-64	7%	18%	29%	10%	3%	2%	30%	960	3.2
65+	6%	12%	29%	11%	2%	1%	38%	500	4.4
EDUCATION									
High school or less	7%	14%	24%	9%	5%	3%	39%	593	4.0
College or CEGEP	8%	18%	24%	12%	4%	3%	30%	723	3.6
University or higher	6%	21%	30%	15%	3%	1%	24%	884	3.3
VOTE INTENTION									
Conservative Party of Canada	0%	22%	21%	10%	2%	3%	43%	756	3.6
Liberal Party of Canada	12%	0%	52%	16%	2%	1%	17%	495	4.4
NDP	12%	41%	0%	21%	9%	1%	15%	376	5.1
Green Party	9%	18%	40%	0%	7%	3%	23%	152	8.0
Bloc Quebecois	9%	14%	44%	9%	0%	1%	22%	215	6.7
Undecided	21%	7%	27%	22%	6%	0%	16%	25	19.6

Methodology:

EKOS' weekly tracking polls are conducted using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator.

In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of landline only RDD, we created a dual landline/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and landline only households. This dual frame yields a near perfect unweighted distribution on age group and gender, something almost never seen with traditional landline RDD sample or interviewer-administered surveys.

The field dates for this survey are April 15-17, 2011. In total, a random sample of 2,246 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 2,019 decided voters). The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-2.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.