

SUMMER STALEMATE AS LEADERS HIT THE BBQ CIRCUIT

ONTARIANS CONTINUE TO VACILLATE

[Ottawa – July 9, 2009] – Stephen Harper and Michael Ignatieff may have been flipping the flapjacks this last week in Calgary but there’s no need to worry about a political stampede.

The two parties have hit the summer stretch in a dead heat.

“It is clear, nonetheless, that Ignatieff’s persistent attempts to woo Albertans have gone nowhere so far,” said EKOS President Frank Graves. “Ontario continues to be the place where governments will be made or unmade.”

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National federal vote intention:**
 - **32.2% LPC**
 - **31.8% CPC**
 - **16.0% NDP**
 - **10.7% Green**
 - **9.3% BQ**

Please note that the methodology and detailed tables of these and other results discussed in this release are provided at the end of this document.

Ontarians, whose meanderings between the Liberals and Conservatives over the past months have accounted for many of the significant changes in the national polls, continue to show ambivalence about the two major parties. The Liberals have retaken a lead over the Tories of several points in the province. Yet at the same time, almost half of Ontarians say they are happy with the direction of the government of Canada, which should be a good sign for Harper’s Tories.

For the New Democratic Party, however, the Ontario numbers must be worrisome. The party’s lead over the fourth place Green Party has dropped to just a few percentage points. (The Greens are actually marginally ahead of the NDP in Quebec, though both are at extremely low levels: in the single digits.)

“We don’t yet know whether the Green Party will be capable of mobilizing this kind of popular support in an election,” said EKOS President Frank Graves. “Certainly they failed in the last election to reproduce their success in the polls at the ballot box. However, if they were more successful this time, it is conceivable that the Greens would seriously challenge to win some seats in Ontario where there was a four-way race.”

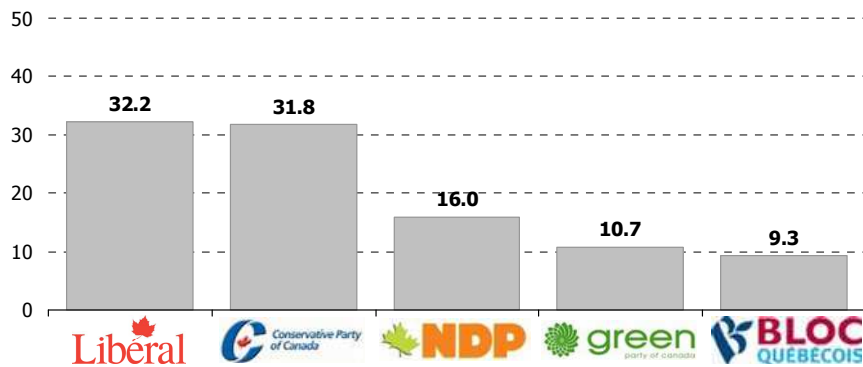
There is better news for the NDP in the Atlantic provinces where they may be enjoying a revival on the strength of their recent provincial win in Nova Scotia (though the sample size is small).

Meanwhile, the Conservatives continue to consolidate their hold on the seniors vote: a challenge to the Liberals for whom this demographic has traditionally been fertile ground.

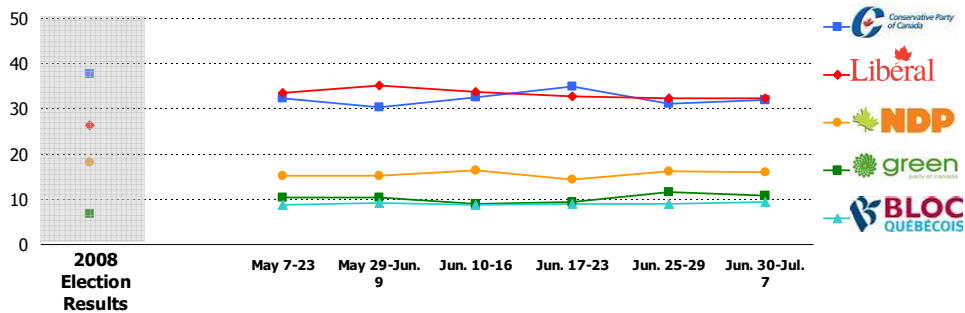
Top Line Results:

Federal vote intention

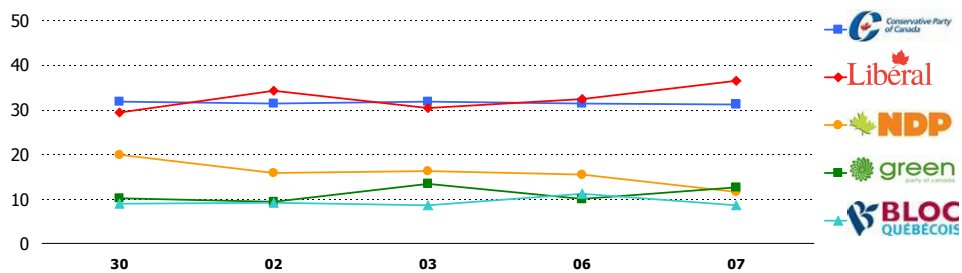
Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?








Weekly tracking of federal vote intention



Daily tracking of federal vote intention (June 30-July 7)







Detailed Tables:

National Federal Vote Intention¹							
<i>Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?</i>							
						Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	31.8%	32.2%	16.0%	10.7%	9.3%	2543	1.9
REGION							
British Columbia	37.2%	24.8%	24.5%	13.5%	0.0%	248	6.2
Alberta	57.1%	22.1%	13.8%	7.0%	0.0%	243	6.3
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	35.4%	22.7%	27.1%	14.8%	0.0%	119	9.0
Ontario	33.9%	39.2%	14.9%	12.0%	0.0%	1077	3.0
Quebec	16.2%	30.9%	7.5%	8.3%	37.1%	723	3.6
Atlantic Canada	26.8%	35.1%	29.6%	8.5%	0.0%	133	8.5
GENDER							
Male	33.6%	32.6%	14.6%	9.9%	9.2%	1247	2.8
Female	30.0%	31.8%	17.4%	11.4%	9.4%	1296	2.7
AGE							
<25	20.3%	29.9%	18.2%	20.5%	11.1%	272	5.9
25-44	27.6%	29.9%	17.4%	12.9%	12.2%	812	3.4
45-64	33.3%	34.2%	16.4%	8.0%	8.1%	1002	3.1
65+	44.6%	34.2%	10.9%	5.2%	5.1%	457	4.6
EDUCATION							
High school or less	30.9%	27.1%	17.7%	12.8%	11.5%	689	3.7
College or CEGEP	35.6%	29.9%	16.2%	9.2%	9.1%	807	3.5
University or higher	29.3%	37.9%	14.6%	10.3%	7.9%	1047	3.0
METROPOLITAN CANADA							
Vancouver	40.4%	29.3%	21.3%	8.9%	0.0%	125	8.8
Calgary	64.8%	17.3%	10.0%	7.8%	0.0%	89	10.4
Toronto	36.3%	40.3%	12.9%	10.5%	0.0%	395	4.9
Ottawa	35.2%	46.3%	8.2%	10.3%	0.0%	286	5.8
Montreal	12.8%	34.7%	9.9%	7.4%	35.2%	337	5.3

¹ The data presented in this and our other tables on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 17.6% of Canadians say they are undecided.





Federal Vote Intention – British Columbia

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	37.2%	24.8%	24.5%	13.5%	248	6.2
GENDER						
Male	41.5%	23.2%	23.0%	12.4%	109	9.4
Female	34.4%	25.8%	25.6%	14.2%	139	8.3
AGE						
<25	26.3%	19.8%	26.7%	27.1%	27	18.9
25-44	32.3%	29.4%	23.9%	14.4%	80	11.0
45-64	33.4%	24.9%	28.0%	13.6%	98	9.9
65+	64.5%	17.0%	16.2%	2.3%	43	14.9
EDUCATION						
High school or less	40.3%	12.3%	25.7%	21.7%	59	12.8
College or CEGEP	32.9%	30.4%	29.0%	7.7%	86	10.6
University or higher	40.9%	26.8%	19.2%	13.1%	103	9.7





Federal Vote Intention – Alberta

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	57.1%	22.1%	13.8%	7.0%	243	6.3
GENDER						
Male	60.0%	23.2%	10.0%	6.8%	119	9.0
Female	52.1%	21.8%	18.3%	7.8%	124	8.8
AGE						
<25	15.0%	33.4%	31.2%	20.4%	20	21.9
25-44	55.7%	21.4%	16.1%	6.8%	86	10.6
45-64	65.1%	18.1%	10.7%	6.1%	96	10.0
65+	62.1%	27.2%	7.6%	3.1%	41	15.3
EDUCATION						
High school or less	54.3%	17.2%	15.8%	12.7%	79	11.0
College or CEGEP	61.8%	24.5%	10.5%	3.2%	82	10.8
University or higher	52.1%	26.0%	16.0%	5.8%	82	10.8





Federal Vote Intention – Saskatchewan/Manitoba

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	35.4%	22.7%	27.1%	14.8%	119	9.0
GENDER						
Male	27.0%	26.3%	30.0%	16.7%	61	12.6
Female	41.0%	19.7%	23.8%	15.4%	58	12.9
AGE						
<25	29.4%	19.1%	14.1%	37.4%	16	24.5
25-44	18.2%	28.0%	32.8%	21.1%	29	18.2
45-64	40.5%	18.2%	33.1%	8.2%	52	13.6
65+	48.4%	30.1%	15.9%	5.6%	22	20.9
EDUCATION						
High school or less	32.2%	20.4%	26.0%	21.3%	39	15.7
College or CEGEP	42.9%	12.6%	29.9%	14.6%	36	16.3
University or higher	25.8%	34.8%	26.5%	12.9%	44	14.8






Federal Vote Intention – Ontario

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	33.9%	39.2%	14.9%	12.0%	1077	3.0
GENDER						
Male	37.0%	39.9%	13.3%	9.8%	534	4.2
Female	29.6%	38.1%	17.1%	15.2%	543	4.2
AGE						
<25	23.9%	33.8%	21.9%	20.4%	95	10.1
25-44	29.7%	38.1%	16.4%	15.8%	299	5.7
45-64	34.7%	42.4%	13.6%	9.3%	466	4.5
65+	43.9%	37.1%	11.7%	7.3%	217	6.7
EDUCATION						
High school or less	31.6%	32.5%	23.2%	12.7%	208	6.8
College or CEGEP	38.9%	33.0%	14.7%	13.4%	341	5.3
University or higher	30.0%	46.7%	11.7%	11.6%	528	4.3





Federal Vote Intention – Quebec

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

						Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	16.2%	30.9%	7.5%	8.3%	37.1%	723	3.6
GENDER							
Male	18.1%	30.6%	7.8%	8.6%	34.8%	372	5.1
Female	14.4%	33.4%	6.6%	7.2%	38.4%	351	5.2
AGE							
<25	11.3%	25.2%	4.3%	19.8%	39.4%	93	10.2
25-44	16.1%	23.0%	10.2%	9.2%	41.5%	279	5.9
45-64	16.3%	35.9%	5.7%	4.7%	37.5%	240	6.3
65+	19.9%	46.9%	6.3%	3.6%	23.2%	111	9.3
EDUCATION							
High school or less	15.5%	33.9%	4.8%	9.9%	35.9%	255	6.1
College or CEGEP	17.9%	29.9%	6.1%	7.1%	39.0%	218	6.6
University or higher	15.7%	31.9%	10.9%	6.4%	35.1%	250	6.2

Federal Vote Intention – Atlantic Canada

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	26.8%	35.1%	29.6%	8.5%	133	8.5
GENDER						
Male	22.0%	37.9%	28.0%	12.1%	52	13.6
Female	30.6%	32.6%	31.1%	5.8%	81	10.9
AGE						
<25	21.5%	42.7%	26.5%	9.3%	21	21.4
25-44	17.1%	32.7%	34.9%	15.3%	39	15.7
45-64	20.2%	41.1%	34.2%	4.5%	50	13.9
65+	61.2%	22.2%	11.4%	5.2%	23	20.4
EDUCATION						
High school or less	28.5%	29.5%	30.7%	11.3%	49	14.0
College or CEGEP	34.2%	32.4%	28.3%	5.1%	44	14.8
University or higher	15.0%	44.6%	30.0%	10.4%	40	15.5

Methodology:

EKOS' weekly tracking polls are conducted using Interactive Voice Recognition (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 land-line only RDD, we created a dual land-line/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able reach those with both a land-line and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and land-line only households. This dual frame yields a near perfect unweighted distribution on age group and gender, something almost never seen with traditional land-line RDD sample or interviewer administered surveys.

The field dates for this survey are June 30 – July 7, 2009. In total, a random sample of 3,088 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 2,543 decided voters). The margin of error associated with total sample is +/- 1.8 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, income). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.