

TORIES EKE OUT NARROW EDGE

OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS WANT EARLY ELECTION; TORY SUPPORTERS WANT TO WAIT

[Ottawa – February 11, 2010] - The federal Conservatives have gotten a small reprieve in this week's EKOS poll, after months of sliding backwards, then into a tie with the Liberal Party. The Conservatives now have a small, but statistically significant lead over their chief opposition rival.

"The Conservatives should be heartened by the fact that the bleeding has clearly stopped and that the issues of Afghan detainees and prorogation have exhausted themselves," said EKOS President, Frank Graves. "However, a growing plurality of Canadians now feel the government is headed in the wrong direction, and that feeling is most pronounced in Canada's three largest provinces – British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec – each of which is a key electoral battleground."

The poll of more than 3000 Canadians – one of a series of large-sample surveys conducted for exclusive release by the CBC – shows that Canadians are deeply divided over whether there should be an early election.

While slightly more Canadians prefer an election by the end of this year to waiting until the government's four-year mandate is over in 2012, the question of election timing is sharply divided along party lines.

Not surprisingly, well over two-thirds of Tory supporters want the government to serve a full mandate. On the other hand, nearly two-thirds of Liberals want an election by the end of this year or even sooner. A majority of other opposition supporters feel the same way.

This poll also examined the question of voters' second choices among the parties. Interestingly, a majority of Conservative supporters said they had no second choice – a measure of the alienation these voters feel towards the opposition parties.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National federal vote intention:**
 - ☒ **31.0% CPC**
 - ☒ **29.0% LPC**
 - ☒ **15.5% NDP**
 - ☒ **11.3% Green**
 - ☒ **10.3% BQ**
 - ☒ **2.8% other**

- **Timing of next election:**
 - ☒ **13% as soon as possible**
 - ☒ **11% in the next four months**
 - ☒ **24% before the end of 2010**
 - ☒ **42% not until the four year term ends in 2012**
 - ☒ **9% do not know/no response**

- **Direction of government:**
 - ☒ **40% right direction**
 - ☒ **49% wrong direction**
 - ☒ **11% do not know/no response**

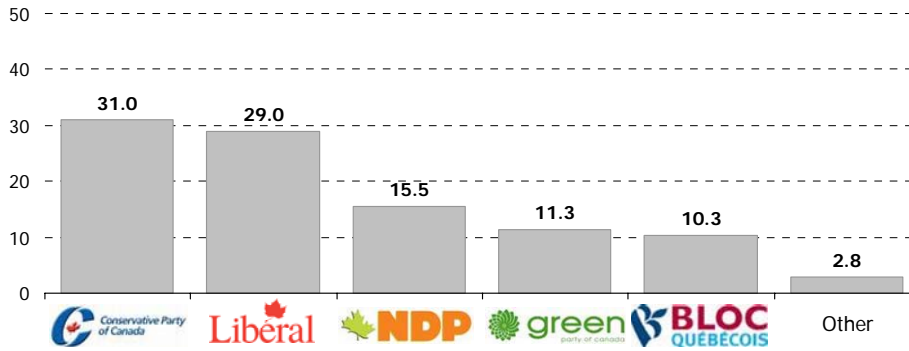
Please note that the methodology is provided at the end of this document.

Although most opposition party supporters were able to express a second choice, relatively few pick the Conservative Party – more evidence of political polarization among the electorate. Liberal and NDP supporters were most likely to choose each other’s party as their second choice. Bloc Québécois supporters favour the NDP and the Greens over the Liberals, and in last place, the Conservatives.

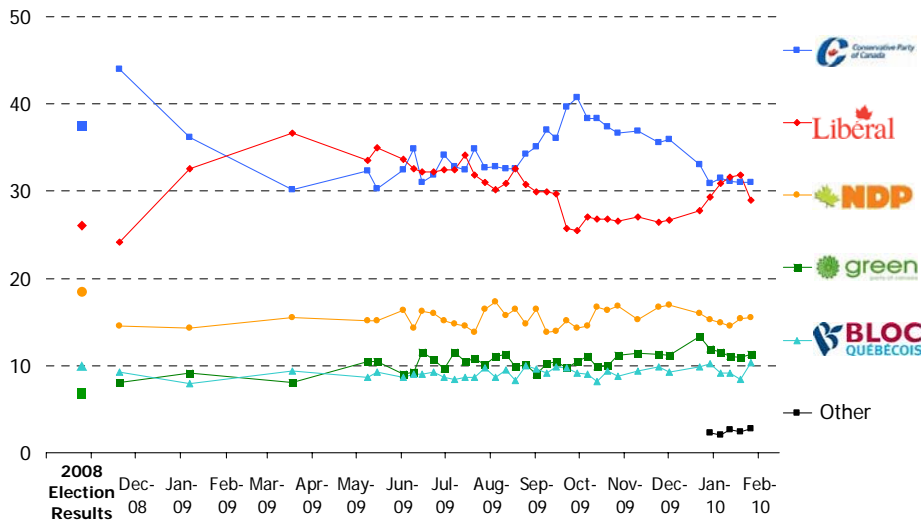
Top Line Results:

Federal vote intention

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








Weekly tracking of federal vote intention



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 13.1% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

Second choice

Q. Which party would be your second choice?

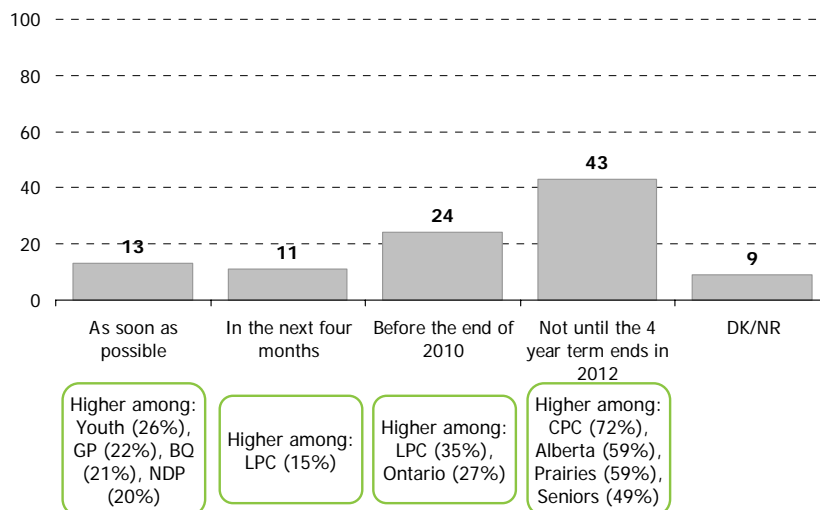
SECOND CHOICE	Second Choice (overall)	FIRST CHOICE					
		CPC	LPC	NDP	GP	BQ	Other
	9.3	--	17.8	14.5	9.7	9.8	13.1
	16.6	21.1	--	37.4	26.1	15.6	10.9
	18.5	12.5	34.7	--	25.7	23.1	17.0
	13.3	10.6	17.2	19.0	--	20.0	22.6
	2.8	2.1	2.9	3.0	6.4	--	5.6
Other	2.2	2.1	1.3	3.3	2.1	1.5	--
No second choice	37.4	51.6	26.1	22.7	30.0	30.0	30.8

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BASE: Eligible voters; Feb. 3-9 (n=2943)

Preferred timing of next election

Q. Which of the following do you think should be the most important issue for the next federal election: 1) social issues like health and education, 2) issues related to the economy like economic growth and employment, 3) fiscal issues like taxes and debt, 4) climate change and the environment, or 5) none of these?

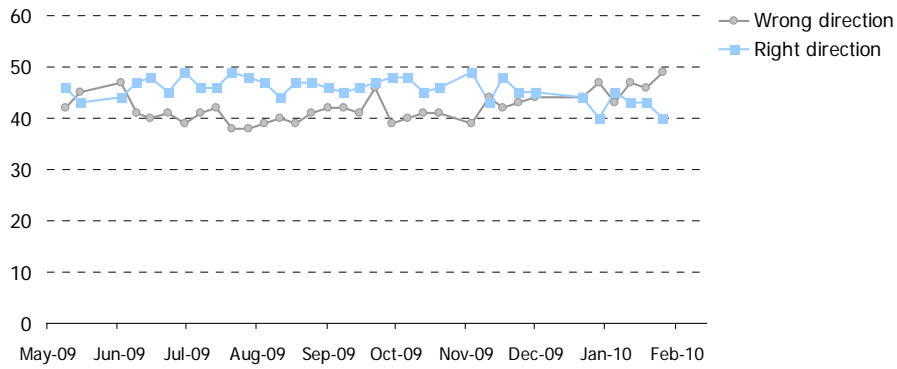


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BASE: Eligible voters; Feb. 3-9 (n=2943)

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 Feb. 3-9 (n=half sample)

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	31.0%	29.0%	15.5%	11.3%	10.3%	2.8%	2632	1.9
REGION								
British Columbia	30.3%	24.1%	26.9%	15.0%	0.0%	3.7%	346	5.3
Alberta	57.1%	21.9%	8.6%	8.1%	0.0%	4.3%	230	6.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	45.5%	24.4%	17.6%	10.3%	0.0%	2.1%	178	7.4
Ontario	31.0%	36.2%	16.7%	13.6%	0.0%	2.4%	1010	3.1
Quebec	16.0%	23.1%	8.3%	8.1%	41.7%	2.7%	653	3.8
Atlantic Canada	33.7%	34.1%	21.3%	9.1%	0.0%	1.8%	215	6.7
GENDER								
Male	35.7%	27.7%	13.2%	10.4%	9.6%	3.5%	1321	2.7
Female	26.4%	30.3%	17.9%	12.3%	10.9%	2.1%	1311	2.7
AGE								
<25	17.6%	28.5%	17.1%	20.0%	13.7%	3.2%	197	7.0
25-44	27.7%	28.0%	15.9%	12.9%	13.1%	2.4%	825	3.4
45-64	33.6%	28.8%	15.2%	10.1%	9.1%	3.3%	1053	3.0
65+	40.4%	31.9%	14.7%	5.5%	5.2%	2.3%	557	4.2
EDUCATION								
High school or less	34.5%	23.1%	14.2%	11.7%	13.1%	3.4%	730	3.6
College or CEGEP	31.8%	25.9%	17.8%	10.8%	11.3%	2.4%	848	3.4
University or higher	27.9%	35.7%	14.6%	11.6%	7.5%	2.7%	1054	3.0
METROPOLITAN CANADA								
Vancouver	33.8%	22.3%	28.6%	13.9%	0.0%	1.4%	121	8.9
Calgary	63.9%	23.8%	6.0%	3.7%	0.0%	2.6%	50	13.9
Toronto	29.3%	44.2%	13.8%	10.8%	0.0%	1.9%	317	5.5
Ottawa	41.1%	38.2%	9.6%	8.0%	0.0%	3.0%	174	7.4
Montreal	11.5%	24.7%	13.6%	8.8%	39.1%	2.3%	305	5.6





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	30.3%	24.1%	26.9%	15.0%	3.7%	346	5.3
GENDER							
Male	32.8%	26.4%	22.0%	13.7%	5.0%	167	7.6
Female	28.0%	21.4%	32.2%	15.9%	2.5%	179	7.3
AGE							
<25	7.1%	34.6%	26.2%	28.3%	3.8%	27	18.9
25-44	23.5%	23.4%	34.6%	15.8%	2.7%	101	9.8
45-64	33.1%	25.1%	21.3%	16.2%	4.4%	153	7.9
65+	52.0%	16.3%	24.6%	2.6%	4.5%	65	12.2
EDUCATION							
High school or less	28.9%	25.7%	22.5%	13.9%	9.0%	80	11.0
College or CEGEP	29.7%	15.3%	36.7%	15.6%	2.7%	108	9.4
University or higher	31.6%	28.8%	23.0%	14.8%	1.7%	158	7.8





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	57.1%	21.9%	8.6%	8.1%	4.3%	230	6.5
GENDER							
Male	59.4%	21.5%	3.7%	8.4%	7.0%	130	8.6
Female	50.1%	22.3%	16.6%	8.6%	2.4%	100	9.8
AGE							
<25	17.9%	21.6%	34.9%	12.7%	12.8%	9	32.7
25-44	59.4%	20.7%	5.5%	9.6%	4.9%	63	12.4
45-64	56.3%	26.2%	8.0%	6.6%	2.9%	104	9.6
65+	62.2%	15.5%	11.6%	8.0%	2.7%	54	13.3
EDUCATION							
High school or less	58.9%	20.7%	8.9%	8.4%	3.1%	64	12.3
College or CEGEP	58.3%	19.1%	12.0%	6.2%	4.4%	81	10.9
University or higher	48.4%	25.3%	10.1%	10.5%	5.7%	85	10.6





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	45.5%	24.4%	17.6%	10.3%	2.1%	178	7.4
GENDER							
Male	48.9%	25.2%	12.1%	10.9%	2.9%	93	10.2
Female	36.8%	27.5%	21.6%	12.7%	1.3%	85	10.6
AGE							
<25	0.0%	57.4%	0.0%	42.6%	0.0%	7	37.0
25-44	43.2%	20.0%	23.6%	10.2%	3.0%	70	11.7
45-64	52.2%	23.2%	16.0%	7.1%	1.5%	61	12.6
65+	47.5%	29.7%	13.2%	7.1%	2.5%	40	15.5
EDUCATION							
High school or less	48.6%	15.5%	18.5%	14.0%	3.3%	61	12.6
College or CEGEP	42.4%	23.3%	24.2%	8.3%	1.8%	51	13.7
University or higher	37.6%	38.2%	10.4%	12.5%	1.3%	66	12.1






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	31.0%	36.2%	16.7%	13.6%	2.4%	1010	3.1
GENDER							
Male	36.4%	33.1%	15.6%	12.1%	2.8%	514	4.3
Female	25.4%	39.1%	18.0%	15.5%	2.1%	496	4.4
AGE							
<25	24.7%	29.1%	17.5%	25.1%	3.5%	72	11.6
25-44	28.8%	36.3%	16.0%	16.7%	2.1%	304	5.6
45-64	32.0%	35.5%	18.3%	11.1%	3.1%	407	4.9
65+	36.4%	41.3%	14.8%	6.5%	1.0%	227	6.5
EDUCATION							
High school or less	39.6%	26.5%	16.3%	16.5%	1.1%	252	6.2
College or CEGEP	31.1%	32.3%	19.0%	14.8%	2.7%	301	5.7
University or higher	25.5%	44.4%	15.6%	11.5%	3.0%	457	4.6





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	16.0%	23.1%	8.3%	8.1%	41.7%	2.7%	653	3.8
GENDER								
Male	21.2%	21.3%	6.7%	7.0%	40.3%	3.5%	306	5.6
Female	12.4%	25.6%	9.5%	8.8%	41.4%	2.3%	347	5.3
AGE								
<25	12.5%	25.1%	10.8%	8.7%	41.8%	1.1%	57	13.0
25-44	12.1%	20.7%	6.9%	9.2%	48.4%	2.5%	232	6.4
45-64	21.6%	19.4%	6.4%	7.9%	40.7%	4.0%	243	6.3
65+	18.7%	35.9%	12.2%	4.9%	25.9%	2.4%	121	8.9
EDUCATION								
High school or less	14.3%	20.1%	6.1%	7.2%	48.3%	4.0%	195	7.0
College or CEGEP	20.2%	21.6%	7.7%	7.5%	41.1%	1.9%	226	6.5
University or higher	15.6%	28.1%	10.2%	8.9%	34.4%	2.9%	232	6.4






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	33.7%	34.1%	21.3%	9.1%	1.8%	215	6.7
GENDER							
Male	32.0%	35.4%	22.2%	8.6%	1.7%	111	9.3
Female	34.3%	34.2%	20.7%	9.2%	1.6%	104	9.6
AGE							
<25	27.9%	23.7%	19.8%	24.9%	3.7%	25	19.6
25-44	27.5%	39.9%	21.5%	11.0%	0.0%	55	13.2
45-64	28.4%	39.0%	25.8%	5.7%	1.1%	85	10.6
65+	55.9%	25.6%	14.3%	0.0%	4.2%	50	13.9
EDUCATION							
High school or less	33.7%	30.0%	23.5%	9.2%	3.7%	78	11.1
College or CEGEP	33.3%	38.5%	23.4%	3.9%	1.0%	81	10.9
University or higher	32.2%	35.8%	16.3%	15.7%	0.0%	56	13.1

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	9%	17%	19%	13%	3%	2%	37%	2943	1.8
REGION									
British Columbia	12%	21%	16%	12%	0%	1%	38%	384	5.0
Alberta	6%	12%	14%	13%	0%	2%	54%	254	6.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	8%	12%	19%	12%	0%	3%	46%	210	6.8
Ontario	9%	18%	21%	14%	0%	2%	36%	1123	2.9
Quebec	9%	14%	18%	14%	11%	2%	32%	724	3.6
Atlantic Canada	13%	21%	21%	10%	0%	1%	34%	248	6.2
GENDER									
Male	9%	17%	18%	15%	3%	2%	37%	1446	2.6
Female	9%	17%	19%	12%	3%	2%	38%	1497	2.5
AGE									
<25	9%	17%	19%	12%	5%	2%	36%	220	6.6
25-44	9%	18%	19%	14%	3%	2%	35%	933	3.2
45-64	10%	16%	20%	15%	2%	1%	36%	1179	2.9
65+	9%	16%	16%	9%	1%	3%	46%	611	4.0
EDUCATION									
High school or less	10%	13%	16%	13%	3%	3%	42%	837	3.4
College or CEGEP	10%	16%	17%	14%	2%	2%	39%	961	3.2
University or higher	8%	20%	22%	13%	3%	2%	33%	1145	2.9
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION									
Conservative Party of Canada	0%	21%	13%	11%	2%	2%	52%	836	3.4
Liberal Party of Canada	18%	0%	35%	17%	3%	1%	26%	771	3.5
NDP	15%	37%	0%	19%	3%	3%	23%	408	4.9
Green Party	10%	26%	26%	0%	6%	2%	30%	279	5.9
Bloc Quebecois	10%	16%	23%	20%	0%	2%	30%	264	6.0
Undecided	13%	11%	17%	23%	6%	0%	31%	74	11.4

Preferred Timing of Next Election

Q. If you could choose, when would you want the next federal election to be held?

	As soon as possible	In the next four months	Before the end of 2010	Not until the 4 year term ends in 2012	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	13%	11%	24%	42%	9%	2943	1.8
REGION							
British Columbia	16%	8%	25%	43%	7%	384	5.0
Alberta	10%	6%	18%	59%	7%	254	6.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	8%	10%	15%	59%	9%	210	6.8
Ontario	13%	12%	27%	40%	8%	1123	2.9
Quebec	14%	12%	24%	38%	13%	724	3.6
Atlantic Canada	17%	14%	28%	33%	9%	248	6.2
GENDER							
Male	17%	11%	24%	42%	6%	1446	2.6
Female	10%	11%	25%	43%	12%	1497	2.5
AGE							
<25	26%	16%	25%	22%	11%	220	6.6
25-44	16%	10%	24%	41%	10%	933	3.2
45-64	9%	11%	25%	48%	7%	1179	2.9
65+	8%	10%	23%	49%	10%	611	4.0
EDUCATION							
High school or less	16%	12%	19%	41%	11%	837	3.4
College or CEGEP	12%	9%	27%	43%	9%	961	3.2
University or higher	12%	12%	25%	43%	7%	1145	2.9
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Conservative Party of Canada	4%	6%	14%	72%	4%	836	3.4
Liberal Party of Canada	15%	15%	35%	30%	5%	771	3.5
NDP	20%	14%	26%	30%	10%	408	4.9
Green Party	22%	9%	31%	31%	7%	279	5.9
Bloc Quebecois	21%	12%	28%	30%	10%	264	6.0
Undecided	18%	15%	12%	41%	13%	74	11.4

Direction of Government					
<i>Q. All things considered, would you say the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?</i>					
	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	40%	49%	11%	1531	2.5
REGION					
British Columbia	37%	52%	11%	193	7.1
Alberta	56%	35%	9%	141	8.3
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	60%	31%	9%	115	9.1
Ontario	38%	51%	11%	586	4.1
Quebec	29%	57%	14%	357	5.2
Atlantic Canada	49%	45%	6%	139	8.3
GENDER					
Male	43%	49%	8%	746	3.6
Female	37%	49%	14%	785	3.5
AGE					
<25	38%	49%	13%	118	9.0
25-44	36%	54%	10%	505	4.4
45-64	42%	48%	10%	582	4.1
65+	46%	42%	12%	326	5.4
EDUCATION					
High school or less	45%	43%	12%	443	4.7
College or CEGEP	42%	45%	13%	486	4.5
University or higher	35%	56%	9%	602	4.0
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	82%	9%	8%	417	4.8
Liberal Party of Canada	24%	66%	10%	409	4.9
NDP	27%	65%	8%	209	6.8
Green Party	21%	70%	9%	153	7.9
Bloc Quebecois	15%	71%	13%	128	8.7
Undecided	22%	68%	10%	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 landline only RDD, we created a dual land-line/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with both 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 February 3 – February 9, 2010.¹ In total, a random sample of 3,006 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 2,632 decided voters). The margin of error associated with the 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, 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.

¹ Please note that these dates are not inclusive of the weekends, as we do not survey on Saturday or Sunday.