

## ***LIMP LIBERALS/CONSERVATIVES FROZEN IN PLACE***

*NEITHER PARTY MUSTERS EVEN A THIRD OF CANADIANS*

[Ottawa – February 18, 2010] - The dramatic movement in the fortunes of Canada's two leading parties over the last four months seems to have come to an end, with neither able to muster even a third of Canadians in support. The Conservatives retain a narrow lead over the second-place Liberals who are too feeble at the moment to overtake a governing party that is mired at 31% support.

"It is extremely unusual for no party to command even a third of the electorate over many weeks, which is the situation we have now," said EKOS President Frank Graves. "Though the Conservatives have tumbled from the low forties four months ago to the low thirties now, the Liberals have made much less impressive gains."

"If Liberals thought they could win power simply by getting out of the way and allowing the Tories to decline, they may be proven wrong. They simply are not getting a large enough share of the voters fleeing the Conservatives to displace them as the leading party."

The poll, one of a series conducted by EKOS for exclusive release by the CBC, shows that Canadians continue to express dissatisfaction with the direction of the federal government by a significant margin. Their lack of enthusiasm, nonetheless, for an early election – seen in a recent EKOS poll – may be explained by their lack of enthusiasm for the obvious alternative, Michael Ignatieff's Liberals.

Only the Green Party is tracking above its performance in the 2008 election, though experience suggests the Greens may have difficulty converting their performance in opinion polls into actual ballots on election day. (The Greens also have great difficulty winning seats because their support is so evenly distributed nationwide.) Green supporters, who skew younger than the other parties, are less likely to vote, and some may be disaffected former Liberals who are "parking" their support as they search for a more appetizing alternative to the governing Conservatives.

In this poll, the Liberals no longer have a significant advantage over the Conservatives in Ontario, as they did just a few weeks ago. They retain an advantage in the Atlantic provinces and appear to be competitive in British Columbia.

### HIGHLIGHTS

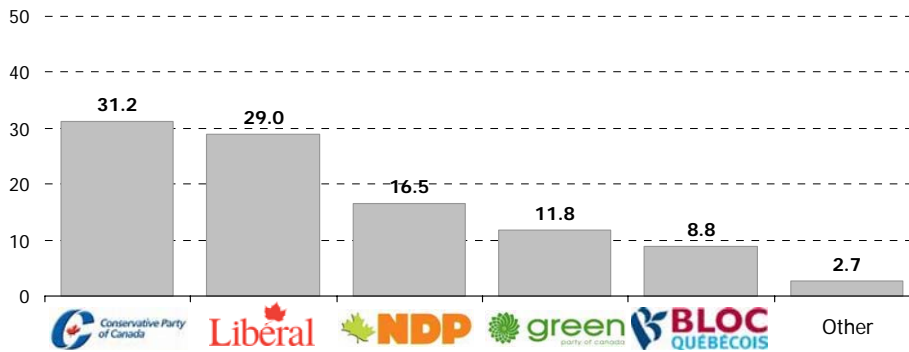
- **National federal vote intention:**
  - ▣ 31.2% CPC
  - ▣ 29.0% LPC
  - ▣ 16.5% NDP
  - ▣ 11.8% Green
  - ▣ 8.8% BQ
  - ▣ 2.7% other
- **Direction of government:**
  - ▣ 41% right direction
  - ▣ 48% wrong direction
  - ▣ 11% do not know/no response

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

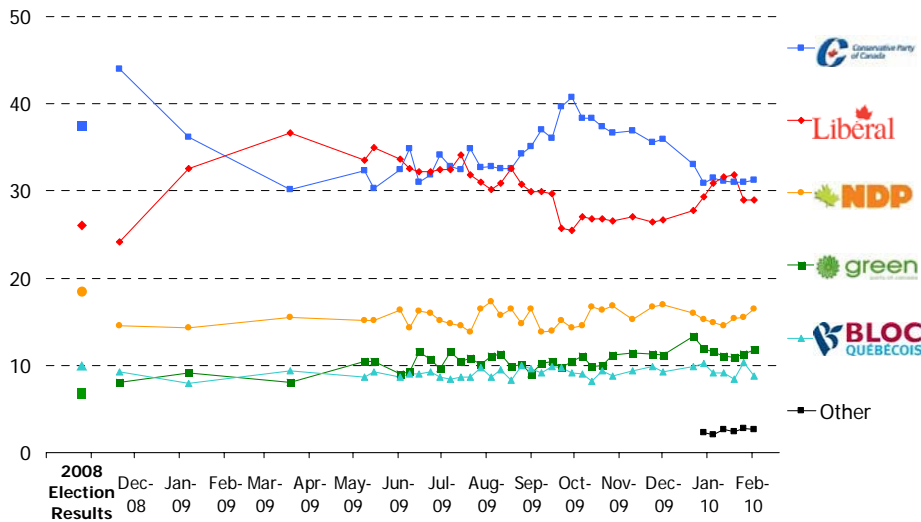
## Top Line Results:

### Federal vote intention

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



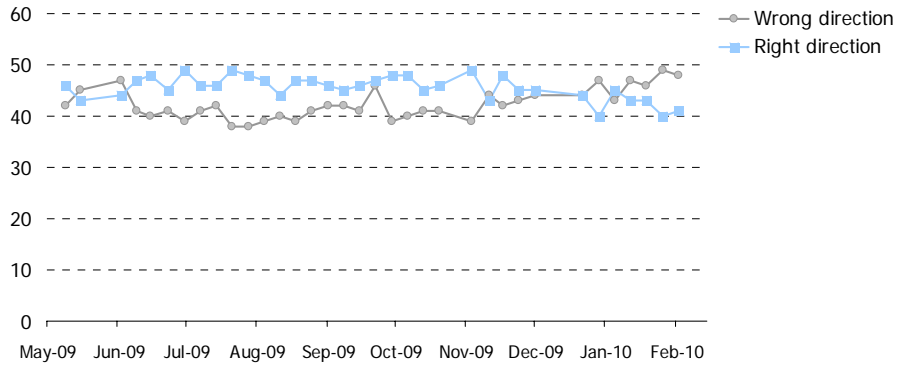
### Weekly tracking of federal vote intention








Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 11.4% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

## Direction of government

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







## Detailed Tables:

<b><u>National Federal Vote Intention</u></b>								
<i>Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?</i>								
						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>3199</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>REGION</b>								
British Columbia	29.9%	29.0%	24.3%	12.9%	0.0%	4.0%	380	5.0
Alberta	52.3%	19.4%	11.0%	13.7%	0.0%	3.6%	322	5.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	42.0%	18.6%	26.9%	9.8%	0.0%	2.7%	225	6.5
Ontario	34.6%	35.0%	15.4%	12.0%	0.0%	3.0%	1194	2.8
Quebec	15.5%	24.9%	11.1%	11.3%	35.9%	1.2%	836	3.4
Atlantic Canada	29.4%	34.5%	25.1%	9.2%	0.0%	1.9%	242	6.3
<b>GENDER</b>								
Male	34.4%	30.1%	14.0%	10.2%	7.9%	3.4%	1662	2.4
Female	28.0%	27.9%	19.0%	13.3%	9.8%	2.0%	1537	2.5
<b>AGE</b>								
<25	18.8%	23.8%	17.8%	23.0%	12.6%	4.1%	259	6.1
25-44	29.3%	28.8%	16.1%	13.4%	9.8%	2.5%	1020	3.1
45-64	30.9%	30.1%	18.2%	9.7%	8.3%	2.8%	1301	2.7
65+	43.2%	30.6%	13.2%	5.4%	5.6%	2.0%	619	3.9
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
High school or less	33.3%	25.1%	14.4%	11.9%	11.7%	3.7%	908	3.3
College or CEGEP	33.1%	24.7%	17.7%	12.9%	8.4%	3.2%	1047	3.0
University or higher	27.9%	35.5%	17.2%	10.7%	7.1%	1.5%	1244	2.8
<b>METROPOLITAN CANADA</b>								
Vancouver	32.3%	29.1%	24.8%	8.3%	0.0%	5.5%	142	8.2
Calgary	62.3%	17.4%	9.3%	7.1%	0.0%	3.9%	99	9.9
Toronto	33.4%	41.6%	14.3%	8.4%	0.0%	2.3%	396	4.9
Ottawa	36.5%	41.6%	15.3%	4.7%	0.0%	1.9%	166	7.6
Montreal	13.5%	26.9%	12.6%	10.7%	35.2%	1.1%	343	5.3





### **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 (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>29.9%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	32.3%	31.0%	17.7%	14.0%	5.1%	201	6.9
Female	27.2%	26.8%	31.5%	11.6%	2.9%	179	7.3
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	10.9%	29.4%	36.7%	19.5%	3.6%	27	18.9
25-44	25.9%	32.1%	25.4%	13.0%	3.5%	110	9.3
45-64	31.9%	27.3%	23.4%	13.0%	4.4%	178	7.4
65+	44.0%	25.5%	18.2%	7.9%	4.3%	65	12.2
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	36.0%	20.3%	19.1%	17.4%	7.3%	92	10.2
College or CEGEP	30.2%	24.2%	27.5%	13.2%	5.0%	133	8.5
University or higher	25.5%	37.9%	25.8%	9.7%	1.1%	155	7.9





### **Federal Vote Intention – Alberta**

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>52.3%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	59.6%	15.2%	9.8%	11.2%	4.1%	176	7.4
Female	44.6%	23.3%	12.5%	16.5%	3.1%	146	8.1
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	24.1%	29.8%	18.9%	22.5%	4.9%	26	19.2
25-44	49.9%	22.5%	8.7%	14.4%	4.6%	112	9.3
45-64	58.5%	10.5%	12.0%	15.6%	3.4%	119	9.0
65+	62.3%	22.6%	9.5%	4.4%	1.2%	65	12.2
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	58.7%	16.3%	7.8%	12.0%	5.2%	90	10.3
College or CEGEP	50.2%	18.2%	10.8%	17.3%	3.5%	120	9.0
University or higher	49.2%	22.9%	14.3%	11.2%	2.4%	112	9.3





### **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 (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	42.6%	24.4%	19.7%	8.1%	5.1%	108	9.4
Female	39.9%	13.2%	30.6%	12.9%	3.4%	117	9.1
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	36.1%	6.3%	12.0%	20.5%	25.0%	15	25.3
25-44	42.2%	23.0%	17.9%	15.3%	1.6%	58	12.9
45-64	38.4%	18.6%	35.2%	6.7%	1.0%	91	10.3
65+	49.2%	20.1%	29.1%	1.6%	0.0%	61	12.6
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	40.1%	17.1%	26.4%	9.1%	7.4%	61	12.6
College or CEGEP	47.9%	16.6%	23.2%	8.6%	3.7%	76	11.2
University or higher	36.5%	21.9%	26.0%	13.3%	2.2%	88	10.5






### **Federal Vote Intention – Ontario**

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	36.1%	36.4%	13.6%	9.8%	4.1%	641	3.9
Female	33.0%	33.4%	17.1%	14.4%	2.0%	553	4.2
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	27.4%	28.6%	15.5%	22.7%	5.8%	92	10.2
25-44	35.4%	31.1%	16.3%	13.6%	3.5%	375	5.1
45-64	31.2%	39.7%	16.9%	10.0%	2.1%	505	4.4
65+	44.2%	36.7%	10.2%	6.5%	2.4%	222	6.6
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	36.2%	29.7%	18.1%	11.8%	4.2%	279	5.9
College or CEGEP	37.9%	28.8%	16.4%	13.0%	3.9%	394	4.9
University or higher	31.1%	42.6%	13.0%	11.5%	1.8%	521	4.3





### **Federal Vote Intention – Quebec**

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

						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>GENDER</b>								
Male	22.3%	24.1%	10.2%	8.3%	33.8%	1.4%	406	4.9
Female	10.7%	26.5%	11.8%	12.6%	37.2%	1.3%	430	4.7
<b>AGE</b>								
<25	5.9%	17.6%	8.8%	27.3%	40.4%	0.0%	81	10.9
25-44	14.2%	24.7%	13.6%	11.1%	35.9%	0.6%	295	5.7
45-64	17.2%	26.8%	9.1%	6.6%	37.7%	2.6%	314	5.5
65+	25.6%	28.9%	10.7%	6.1%	27.2%	1.4%	146	8.1
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
High school or less	19.2%	23.5%	6.7%	9.9%	38.9%	1.8%	283	5.8
College or CEGEP	14.1%	23.4%	13.3%	12.4%	36.1%	0.7%	253	6.2
University or higher	15.3%	28.9%	13.4%	9.4%	31.6%	1.4%	300	5.7

### **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 (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	25.5%	38.1%	22.3%	11.4%	2.8%	130	8.6
Female	31.7%	30.0%	29.7%	7.7%	0.8%	112	9.3
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	22.4%	24.2%	43.4%	10.0%	0.0%	18	23.1
25-44	21.9%	41.2%	18.7%	18.1%	0.0%	70	11.7
45-64	26.1%	28.6%	35.0%	6.0%	4.3%	94	10.1
65+	50.1%	37.4%	11.0%	0.0%	1.5%	60	12.7
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	32.4%	34.9%	19.2%	12.2%	1.4%	103	9.7
College or CEGEP	32.5%	28.1%	25.8%	9.2%	4.3%	71	11.6
University or higher	19.8%	38.4%	35.6%	6.3%	0.0%	68	11.9

<b>Direction of Government</b>					
<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 (+/-)
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1823</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>REGION</b>					
British Columbia	36%	53%	11%	202	6.9
Alberta	56%	36%	8%	189	7.1
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	41%	41%	18%	113	9.2
Ontario	42%	47%	11%	682	3.8
Quebec	35%	55%	10%	489	4.4
Atlantic Canada	42%	46%	12%	148	8.1
<b>GENDER</b>					
Male	43%	47%	9%	910	3.3
Female	39%	49%	12%	913	3.2
<b>AGE</b>					
<25	45%	45%	10%	171	7.5
25-44	42%	49%	9%	611	4.0
45-64	35%	53%	12%	690	3.7
65+	48%	39%	13%	351	5.2
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
High school or less	45%	41%	14%	532	4.3
College or CEGEP	41%	49%	10%	593	4.0
University or higher	37%	54%	9%	698	3.7
<b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b>					
Conservative Party of Canada	79%	13%	8%	499	4.4
Liberal Party of Canada	30%	61%	9%	492	4.4
NDP	24%	63%	13%	267	6.0
Green Party	25%	64%	11%	190	7.1
Bloc Quebecois	23%	67%	10%	155	7.9
Undecided	28%	67%	6%	33	17.1



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## 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 10 – February 16, 2010.<sup>1</sup> In total, a random sample of 3,600 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 3,199 decided voters). The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-1.6 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.

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