

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FROZEN

CANADIANS CONTINUE TO OPPOSE BOTH THE AFGHANISTAN MISSION AND AN EXTENSION

[Ottawa – April 8, 2010] - Because of this week's relatively short data collection period (we did not survey on Good Friday or Easter Monday), our sample size is much smaller than usual. The results show no significant changes from last week. The political scene remains frozen, with no party able to garner the support of more than a third of voters.

Since the issue of the war in Afghanistan was raised once again with the visit of Hillary Clinton, we also tested attitudes to both the current military mission and receptivity to an American request to extend participation beyond the existing deadline for withdrawal. The survey shows that the public no longer supports the mission. This opposition to the existing mission has been in place for some time, but it is highly divided across CPC supporters (who continue to support) and other voters who decisively reject. The levels of opposition are particularly high in Quebec.

In the case of the request from the Americans that we extend our mission, the answer is no different for Hillary Clinton than when we posed this as a hypothetical request from Barack Obama. A clear majority of the Canadian public continue to reject this appeal.

The Prime Minister's response to Hillary Clinton, which was unusually quick and clear, reflects a shrewd understanding of the public opinion dynamics of this issue. While there has been some oscillation and division over the original mission, Canadians have been remarkably clear and unified each time we have asked about the issue of an extension.

HIGHLIGHTS

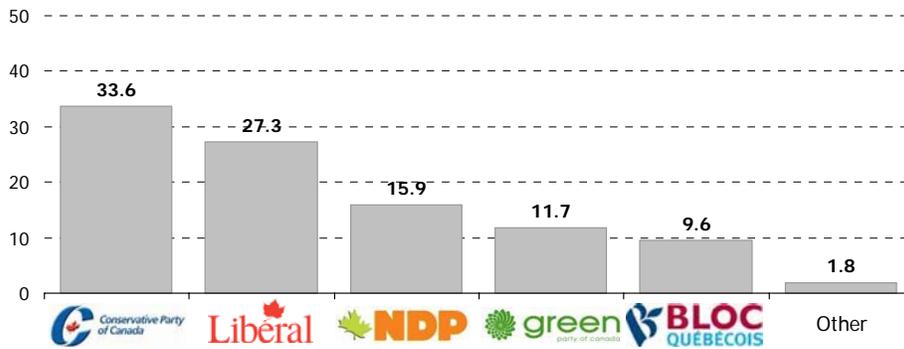
- **National federal vote intention:**
 - ☒ **33.6% CPC**
 - ☒ **27.3% LPC**
 - ☒ **15.9% NDP**
 - ☒ **11.7% Green**
 - ☒ **9.6% BQ**
 - ☒ **1.8% other**
- **Direction of government:**
 - ☒ **46.5% wrong direction**
 - ☒ **43.2% right direction**
 - ☒ **10.3% don't know/no response**
- **Mission in Afghanistan:**
 - ☒ **49% oppose**
 - ☒ **36% support**
 - ☒ **14% neither**
- **Support for extending Canada's role in Afghanistan:**
 - ☒ **60% oppose**
 - ☒ **28% support**
 - ☒ **12% neither**

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

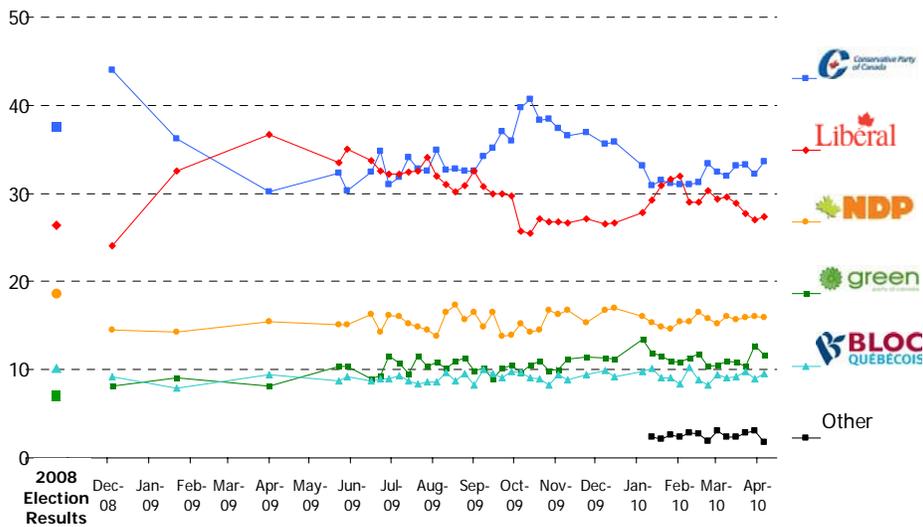
Top Line Results:

Federal vote intention

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



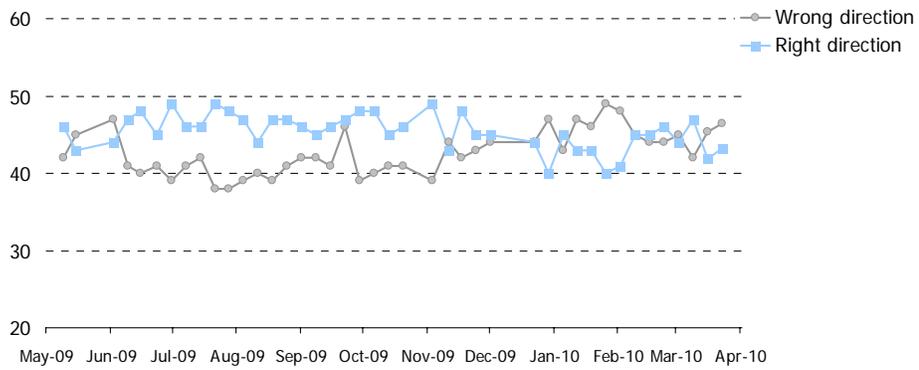
Weekly tracking of federal vote intention



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 13.5% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

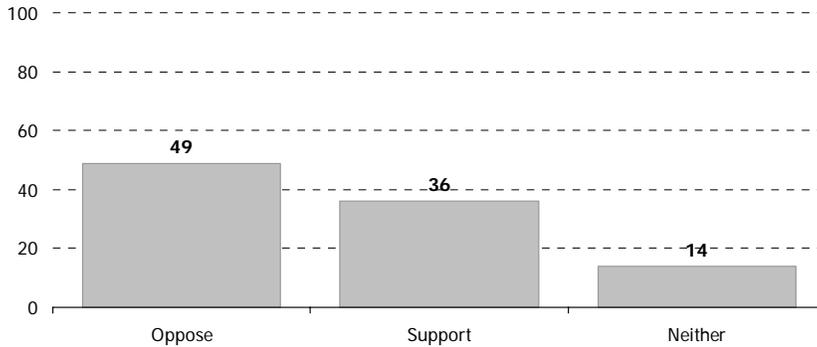
Direction of government

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



Mission in Afghanistan

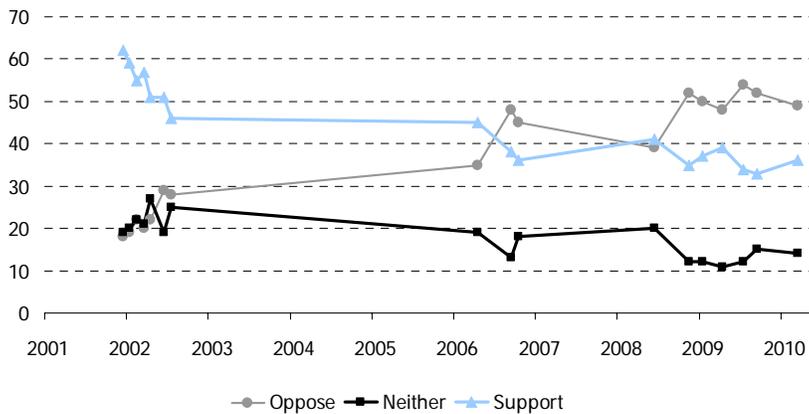
Q. Do you support or oppose Canadian military participation in Afghanistan?



Higher among:
BQ (75%), NDP (62%),
Quebec (62%), GP
(60%), Women (55%)

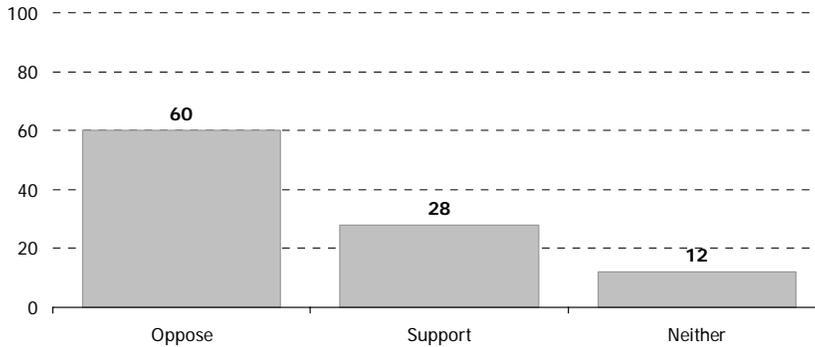
Higher among:
Alberta (50%), CPC
(48%), Men (45%)

Tracking support for the Mission in Afghanistan (2001-2010)



Support for extending Canada's role in Afghanistan

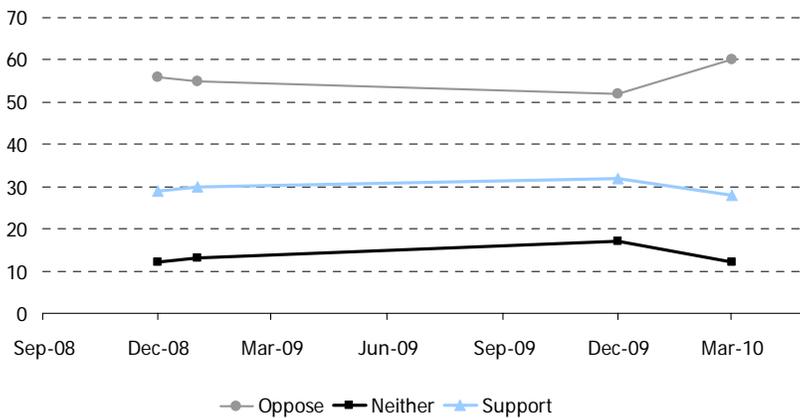
Q. Canada's military mission in Afghanistan is scheduled to last until July 2011. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently suggested that Canada should extend its role in Afghanistan. Do you oppose or support Canada extending its mission in Afghanistan?



Higher among:
BQ (76%), GP (75%),
Quebec (68%), Women
(66%)

Higher among:
Alberta (37%), CPC
(36%), Men (35%)

Tracking support for extending Canada's role in Afghanistan (2008-2010)



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	33.6%	27.3%	15.9%	11.7%	9.6%	1.8%	797	3.5
REGION								
British Columbia	28.8%	19.6%	29.5%	18.2%	0.0%	3.9%	186	7.2
Alberta	55.7%	17.5%	8.4%	13.8%	0.0%	4.6%	94	10.1
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	32.8%	35.2%	18.6%	13.4%	0.0%	0.0%	70	11.7
Ontario	39.5%	31.8%	16.0%	12.0%	0.0%	0.8%	218	6.6
Quebec	17.0%	23.6%	9.6%	8.3%	39.4%	2.2%	152	8.0
Atlantic Canada	36.1%	38.1%	20.3%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	77	11.2
GENDER								
Male	38.0%	23.9%	13.0%	13.2%	9.8%	2.2%	411	4.8
Female	29.2%	30.8%	18.9%	10.3%	9.3%	1.4%	386	5.0
AGE								
<25	23.1%	28.8%	17.7%	20.0%	10.4%	0.0%	63	12.4
25-44	31.1%	20.3%	19.4%	16.3%	11.4%	1.5%	233	6.4
45-64	35.4%	31.5%	13.7%	9.0%	8.4%	2.0%	305	5.6
65+	41.6%	32.2%	12.3%	3.1%	7.7%	3.1%	196	7.0
EDUCATION								
High school or less	36.0%	20.7%	17.1%	17.7%	7.5%	0.9%	236	6.4
College or CEGEP	36.7%	25.3%	14.4%	7.5%	12.5%	3.5%	244	6.3
University or higher	29.1%	34.1%	16.2%	10.7%	8.7%	1.2%	317	5.5
METROPOLITAN CANADA								
Vancouver	28.5%	31.2%	22.3%	13.6%	0.0%	4.3%	71	11.6
Calgary	60.3%	13.3%	8.1%	11.3%	0.0%	7.1%	26	19.2
Toronto	38.1%	45.0%	10.7%	5.2%	0.0%	0.9%	85	10.6
Ottawa	52.4%	29.4%	6.1%	12.1%	0.0%	0.0%	34	16.8
Montreal	9.1%	27.6%	14.2%	6.3%	40.5%	2.2%	83	10.8

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	28.8%	19.6%	29.5%	18.2%	3.9%	186	7.2
GENDER							
Male	35.5%	16.7%	25.1%	18.3%	4.4%	92	10.2
Female	23.6%	21.5%	32.8%	19.1%	2.9%	94	10.1
AGE							
<25	24.1%	8.2%	30.4%	37.3%	0.0%	11	29.6
25-44	17.7%	16.2%	31.9%	29.9%	4.4%	59	12.8
45-64	31.0%	25.6%	29.7%	9.9%	3.8%	76	11.2
65+	50.3%	18.5%	21.9%	5.3%	4.1%	40	15.5
EDUCATION							
High school or less	33.5%	5.6%	33.9%	25.1%	2.0%	48	14.1
College or CEGEP	36.2%	12.8%	28.1%	16.4%	6.5%	58	12.9
University or higher	21.2%	33.5%	26.5%	16.3%	2.6%	80	11.0

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	55.7%	17.5%	8.4%	13.8%	4.6%	94	10.1
GENDER							
Male	55.0%	13.3%	7.9%	20.7%	3.0%	50	13.9
Female	56.8%	22.2%	9.0%	6.2%	5.7%	44	14.8
AGE							
<25	62.2%	12.2%	13.7%	11.9%	0.0%	8	34.7
25-44	55.6%	20.8%	6.2%	17.4%	0.0%	29	18.2
45-64	51.0%	20.4%	8.5%	11.9%	8.2%	35	16.6
65+	61.4%	10.2%	9.5%	8.8%	10.1%	22	20.9
EDUCATION							
High school or less	56.7%	14.4%	12.3%	16.6%	0.0%	31	17.6
College or CEGEP	58.0%	14.1%	3.3%	15.9%	8.8%	29	18.2
University or higher	53.6%	23.8%	9.5%	8.8%	4.4%	34	16.8

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	32.8%	35.2%	18.6%	13.4%	0.0%	70	11.7
GENDER							
Male	36.7%	35.3%	11.0%	17.0%	0.0%	33	17.1
Female	29.2%	38.1%	19.9%	12.8%	0.0%	37	16.1
AGE							
<25	0.0%	40.1%	40.2%	19.8%	0.0%	5	43.8
25-44	33.4%	23.6%	14.0%	29.0%	0.0%	21	21.4
45-64	33.3%	50.0%	12.4%	4.3%	0.0%	24	20.0
65+	50.2%	35.3%	9.7%	4.8%	0.0%	20	21.9
EDUCATION							
High school or less	32.4%	32.7%	7.1%	27.9%	0.0%	20	21.9
College or CEGEP	33.4%	36.9%	11.1%	18.6%	0.0%	15	25.3
University or higher	33.2%	38.8%	21.9%	6.1%	0.0%	35	16.6

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	39.5%	31.8%	16.0%	12.0%	0.8%	218	6.6
GENDER							
Male	47.2%	27.0%	13.0%	12.2%	0.5%	117	9.1
Female	30.8%	36.4%	19.5%	12.3%	0.9%	101	9.8
AGE							
<25	36.3%	28.1%	13.0%	22.5%	0.0%	14	26.2
25-44	38.9%	21.9%	23.7%	15.5%	0.0%	55	13.2
45-64	40.3%	36.8%	10.7%	12.1%	0.0%	86	10.6
65+	38.6%	42.4%	14.4%	0.9%	3.7%	63	12.4
EDUCATION							
High school or less	38.0%	17.0%	19.9%	23.5%	1.5%	59	12.8
College or CEGEP	45.1%	31.8%	15.0%	7.3%	0.9%	68	11.9
University or higher	34.7%	43.3%	14.5%	7.5%	0.0%	91	10.3

Federal Vote Intention – Quebec

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

						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	17.0%	23.6%	9.6%	8.3%	39.4%	2.2%	152	8.0
GENDER								
Male	16.8%	19.6%	7.8%	10.3%	40.9%	4.7%	77	11.2
Female	19.6%	28.1%	9.6%	4.9%	37.7%	0.0%	75	11.3
AGE								
<25	0.0%	35.9%	12.7%	19.6%	31.8%	0.0%	16	24.5
25-44	17.2%	11.5%	12.1%	11.0%	44.1%	4.1%	45	14.6
45-64	20.3%	29.4%	7.5%	3.5%	36.6%	2.7%	58	12.9
65+	26.9%	27.9%	2.4%	2.4%	40.4%	0.0%	33	17.1
EDUCATION								
High school or less	27.6%	27.2%	5.2%	7.3%	32.7%	0.0%	50	13.9
College or CEGEP	14.5%	24.7%	9.7%	0.0%	45.8%	5.3%	50	13.9
University or higher	13.5%	19.6%	10.8%	16.1%	38.6%	1.5%	52	13.6

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	36.1%	38.1%	20.3%	5.5%	0.0%	77	11.2
GENDER							
Male	41.1%	42.1%	14.0%	2.8%	0.0%	42	15.1
Female	29.9%	33.4%	28.3%	8.4%	0.0%	35	16.6
AGE							
<25	21.5%	44.5%	23.3%	10.7%	0.0%	9	32.7
25-44	34.0%	41.1%	20.4%	4.5%	0.0%	24	20.0
45-64	40.7%	30.0%	25.0%	4.3%	0.0%	26	19.2
65+	42.7%	39.5%	11.9%	5.9%	0.0%	18	23.1
EDUCATION							
High school or less	34.4%	35.5%	23.6%	6.5%	0.0%	28	18.5
College or CEGEP	49.3%	31.3%	19.4%	0.0%	0.0%	24	20.0
University or higher	25.6%	45.5%	19.7%	9.1%	0.0%	25	19.6

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	43%	47%	10%	479	4.5
REGION					
British Columbia	40%	52%	8%	103	9.7
Alberta	63%	30%	7%	55	13.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	50%	42%	8%	36	16.3
Ontario	49%	40%	11%	131	8.6
Quebec	29%	61%	10%	92	10.2
Atlantic Canada	37%	46%	17%	62	12.5
GENDER					
Male	51%	44%	5%	240	6.3
Female	36%	49%	15%	239	6.3
AGE					
<25	39%	59%	2%	42	15.1
25-44	43%	45%	12%	147	8.1
45-64	43%	45%	12%	184	7.2
65+	48%	43%	9%	106	9.5
EDUCATION					
High school or less	43%	45%	12%	150	8.0
College or CEGEP	46%	41%	13%	155	7.9
University or higher	41%	53%	6%	174	7.4
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	81%	14%	5%	144	8.2
Liberal Party of Canada	30%	58%	12%	110	9.3
NDP	17%	68%	15%	75	11.3
Green Party	41%	53%	6%	41	15.3
Bloc Quebecois	7%	74%	19%	32	17.3
Undecided	32%	44%	24%	8	34.7

Mission in Afghanistan

Q. Do you oppose or support Canadian military participation in Afghanistan? Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means strongly oppose, 7 means strongly support, and the midpoint, 4, means neither oppose nor support.

	Oppose (1-3)	Neither (4)	Support (5-7)	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	49%	14%	36%	909	3.3
REGION					
British Columbia	45%	17%	38%	207	6.8
Alberta	36%	14%	50%	104	9.6
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	43%	10%	46%	76	11.2
Ontario	49%	12%	39%	249	6.2
Quebec	62%	17%	21%	174	7.4
Atlantic Canada	38%	20%	41%	99	9.9
GENDER					
Male	44%	11%	45%	453	4.6
Female	55%	17%	28%	456	4.6
AGE					
<25	50%	18%	32%	75	11.3
25-44	51%	14%	36%	265	6.0
45-64	51%	12%	38%	355	5.2
65+	44%	19%	38%	214	6.7
EDUCATION					
High school or less	47%	17%	36%	272	5.9
College or CEGEP	47%	15%	38%	291	5.7
University or higher	53%	12%	35%	346	5.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	34%	17%	48%	278	5.9
Liberal Party of Canada	49%	12%	39%	221	6.6
NDP	62%	12%	25%	132	8.5
Green Party	60%	7%	33%	88	10.5
Bloc Quebecois	75%	8%	17%	60	12.7
Undecided	44%	21%	35%	18	23.1

Support for Extending Canada's Role in Afghanistan

Q. Canada's military mission in Afghanistan is scheduled to last until July 2011. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently suggested that Canada should extend its role in Afghanistan. Do you oppose or support Canada extending its mission in Afghanistan? Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means strongly oppose, 7 means strongly support, and the midpoint, 4, means neither oppose nor support.

	Oppose (1-3)	Neither (4)	Support (5-7)	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	60%	12%	28%	909	3.3
REGION					
British Columbia	59%	8%	33%	207	6.8
Alberta	53%	10%	37%	104	9.6
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	60%	8%	32%	76	11.2
Ontario	58%	14%	28%	249	6.2
Quebec	68%	14%	18%	174	7.4
Atlantic Canada	53%	12%	34%	99	9.9
GENDER					
Male	54%	11%	35%	453	4.6
Female	66%	13%	21%	456	4.6
AGE					
<25	62%	13%	25%	75	11.3
25-44	62%	10%	28%	265	6.0
45-64	60%	13%	27%	355	5.2
65+	53%	15%	32%	214	6.7
EDUCATION					
High school or less	59%	14%	27%	272	5.9
College or CEGEP	58%	12%	30%	291	5.7
University or higher	63%	11%	26%	346	5.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	52%	12%	36%	278	5.9
Liberal Party of Canada	57%	13%	30%	221	6.6
NDP	64%	9%	26%	132	8.5
Green Party	75%	8%	17%	88	10.5
Bloc Quebecois	76%	17%	7%	60	12.7
Undecided	59%	15%	26%	18	23.1

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 March 31 – April 6, 2010.¹ In total, a random sample of 909 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 797 decided voters). The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-3.3 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 or holidays, as we do not survey on Saturday or Sunday, nor do we survey on Good Friday or Easter Monday.