

www.ekospolitics.ca

TORIES EDGE INTO MAJORITY TERRITORY

LIBERALS AT LOWEST EBB SINCE IGNATIEFF BECAME LEADER

[Ottawa – October 8, 2009] – Stephen Harper's Conservatives could win a majority if an election were held right now, having erased the Liberal Party's lead among women, the university educated, and Canadians born abroad – demographic groups that were until recently firmly in the Liberals' domain.

"This is a dramatic setback for the Liberal Party, not confined to any specific group or region," said EKOS President Frank Graves. "And it appears to be driven by a collapse in Michael Ignatieff's popularity. Ignatieff has gone from a very positive approval rating when he assumed the leadership less than a year ago to a decisively negative one."

Only one in five Canadians now approves of the way Mr. Ignatieff is doing his job, compared with about half of Canadians who disapprove. "This dramatic fall from grace has dragged Liberal support down to the levels it endured under Ignatieff's predecessor, Stéphane Dion," said Graves.

Meanwhile, Mr. Harper's negatives have softened significantly from earlier in the year. And approval for Mr. Harper is solid among Conservative supporters, while support for Mr. Ignatieff among Liberals is at best tepid.

HIGHLIGHTS

- National federal vote intention:
 - ¤ 39.7% CPC
 - **¤ 25.7% LPC**
 - **¤ 15.2% NDP**
 - **¤ 9.7% Green**
 - **¤ 9.7% BO**
- Most important election issue:
 - **¤ 41%** economic issues
 - **¤** 33% social issues
 - **¤ 17%** fiscal issues
 - **2** 2% none of the above
- Approval rating Harper:
 - m 39% approve
 - **¤ 42% disapprove**
 - **¤ 19% do not know/no response**
- Approval rating Ignatieff:
 - ¤ 19% approve
 - **¤ 51% disapprove**
 - **¤ 30% do not know/no response**
- Approval rating Layton:
 - **¤ 34% approve**
 - **¤ 31% disapprove**
 - **¤ 35% do not know/no response**

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

Jack Layton, meanwhile has a mildly positive approval rating from Canadians – an interesting comment on his decision to support the government in recent confidence votes.

The poll, conducted for exclusive release by the CBC, has an extremely robust sample size – much larger than other recent polls – allowing for a detailed picture of patterns of party support.



The Liberals can no longer claim the lead in any region of the country. They are now neck-andneck with the Tories in Quebec, well behind the Bloc Québécois. The party's sagging fortunes there may well relate to the recent Coderre affair.

However, in the former Liberal bastion of Ontario, the Liberals now also trail the Conservatives by more than ten percentage points.

What had been bright spots for Mr. Ignatieff since he took over as leader late last year – women voters and the university educated – have tilted into the Conservative camp. Even Canadians born outside Canada – New Canadians, in other words – once bedrock for Liberal majorities in this country, and even a reliable demographic when the party was in opposition, are now almost evenly divided between the two leading parties.

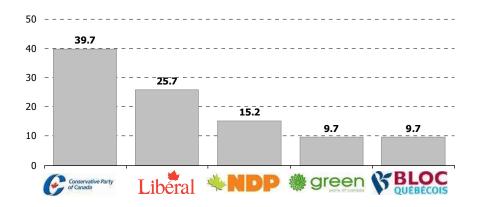
"The only obvious barrier to a Conservative majority at the moment is the public's antipathy to holding another election," said Graves. "Indeed, it may be that the Liberals are suffering in part because they have branded themselves around holding an early election while the Conservatives have branded themselves around being stewards of the economy. And our research shows that the economy is the issue. It will be interesting to watch the impact of a newfound plausibility of a majority government on a minority weary but also election-wary electorate."



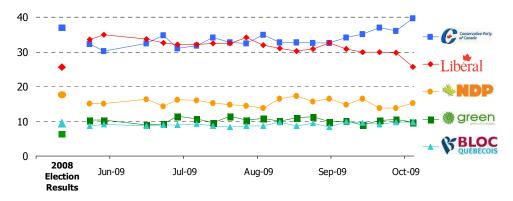
Top Line Results:

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 14.5% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

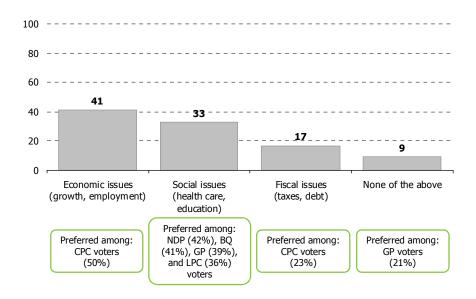
Copyright 2009. No reproduction without permission

BASE: Decided voters; most recent data point Sep. 30-Oct. 6 (n=2830)



Election issues

Q. Which of the following do you think should be the most important issue for the next federal election?

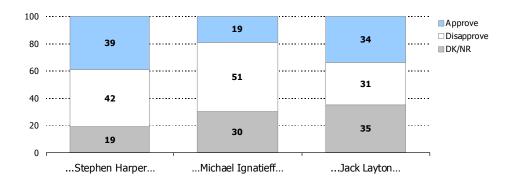


Copyright 2009. No reproduction without permission

BASE: Canadians; Sep. 30-Oct. 6 (n=3333)

Job approval ratings

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way ... is handling his job?

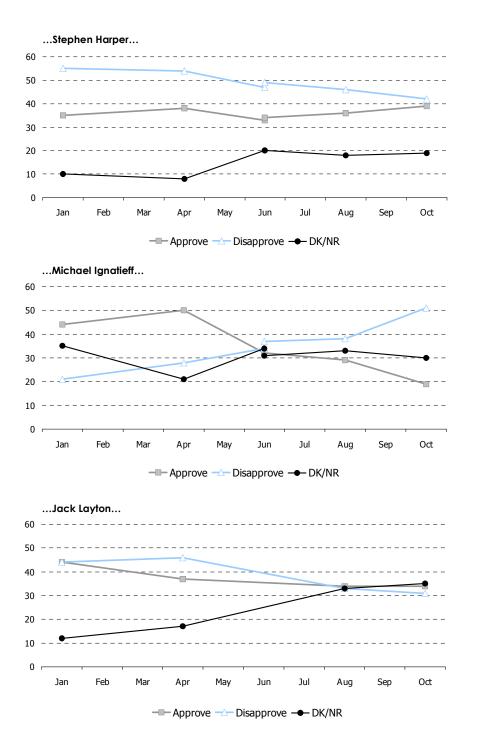


BASE: Canadians; Sep. 30-Oct. 6 (n=3333)



Tracking job approval ratings

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way ... is handling his job?



Copyright 2009. No reproduction without permission

BASE: Canadians; most recent data point Sep. 30-Oct. 6 (n=3333)



Detailed Tables:

National Federal Vote Intention

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	*NDP	# green	FBLOC QUÉBECOIS	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	39.7%	25.7%	15.2%	9.7%	9.7%	2830	1.8
REGION							
British Columbia	41.6%	22.2%	23.5%	12.7%	0.0%	274	5.9
Alberta	61.0%	13.5%	13.0%	12.5%	0.0%	213	6.7
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	51.6%	22.7%	18.4%	7.2%	0.0%	204	6.9
Ontario	43.8%	32.5%	13.9%	9.7%	0.0%	1146	2.9
Quebec	22.2%	21.0%	9.7%	8.4%	38.7%	794	3.5
Atlantic Canada	34.8%	32.4%	26.2%	6.6%	0.0%	199	7.0
GENDER							
Male	43.0%	25.3%	12.9%	9.3%	9.6%	1357	2.7
Female	36.6%	26.1%	17.5%	10.0%	9.8%	1473	2.6
AGE							
<25	22.6%	28.3%	15.9%	20.8%	12.4%	281	5.9
25-44	34.2%	24.7%	18.3%	10.8%	12.0%	970	3.2
45-64	42.8%	26.3%	14.6%	7.3%	9.0%	1103	3.0
65+	54.5%	24.9%	10.3%	5.6%	4.8%	476	4.5
EDUCATION							
High school or less	39.5%	21.7%	15.6%	9.5%	13.6%	748	3.6
College or CEGEP	43.7%	21.2%	15.4%	9.9%	9.7%	1021	3.1
University or higher	36.0%	32.9%	14.8%	9.5%	6.8%	1061	3.0
METROPOLITAN CANADA							
Vancouver	44.9%	25.8%	18.2%	11.1%	0.0%	92	10.2
Calgary	48.1%	22.7%	10.0%	19.1%	0.0%	62	12.5
Toronto	44.8%	35.6%	10.3%	9.4%	0.0%	307	5.6
Ottawa	45.8%	36.0%	9.5%	8.6%	0.0%	150	8.0
Montreal	19.8%	24.4%	8.5%	10.2%	37.2%	336	5.4



<u>Federal Vote Intention – British Columbia</u>

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

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	*NDP	∰ green	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	41.6%	22.2%	23.5%	12.7%	274	5.9
GENDER						
Male	43.7%	27.3%	14.5%	14.4%	133	8.5
Female	37.3%	17.2%	32.4%	13.2%	141	8.3
AGE						
<25	19.3%	27.9%	28.3%	24.5%	21	21.4
25-44	33.2%	19.5%	27.1%	20.1%	79	11.0
45-64	43.2%	25.1%	22.4%	9.3%	119	9.0
65+	59.1%	17.7%	18.0%	5.1%	55	13.2
EDUCATION						
High school or less	42.4%	19.7%	24.5%	13.5%	66	12.1
College or CEGEP	40.3%	20.3%	27.9%	11.6%	108	9.4
University or higher	39.2%	25.4%	19.2%	16.2%	100	9.8

Federal Vote Intention - Alberta

	Consinuative Party of Canada	Liberal	*NDP	# green	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	61.0%	13.5%	13.0%	12.5%	213	6.7
GENDER						
Male	58.3%	16.8%	10.7%	14.2%	101	9.8
Female	64.6%	9.9%	14.7%	10.8%	112	9.3
AGE						
<25	42.4%	23.8%	10.2%	23.7%	21	21.4
25-44	54.9%	15.9%	19.7%	9.6%	72	11.6
45-64	66.3%	11.8%	7.1%	14.8%	85	10.6
65+	73.9%	5.9%	14.2%	6.1%	35	16.6
EDUCATION						
High school or less	63.3%	6.2%	14.1%	16.5%	66	12.1
College or CEGEP	64.7%	10.6%	14.2%	10.5%	75	11.3
University or higher	56.6%	22.9%	10.0%	10.5%	72	11.6



<u>Federal Vote Intention – Saskatchewan/Manitoba</u>

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

	Conservative Party of Clinada	Liberal	*NDP	# green	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	51.6%	22.7%	18.4%	7.2%	204	6.9
GENDER						
Male	56.8%	21.4%	14.7%	7.1%	101	9.8
Female	45.2%	25.2%	22.0%	7.6%	103	9.7
AGE						
<25	34.9%	28.0%	31.5%	5.6%	15	25.3
25-44	50.0%	25.4%	12.0%	12.7%	61	12.6
45-64	49.0%	25.6%	21.3%	4.2%	90	10.3
65+	68.8%	11.0%	15.8%	4.5%	38	15.9
EDUCATION						
High school or less	47.2%	25.7%	19.1%	8.0%	69	11.8
College or CEGEP	60.4%	20.4%	15.2%	4.0%	69	11.8
University or higher	44.3%	24.0%	21.2%	10.4%	66	12.1

Federal Vote Intention – Ontario

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	*NDP	# green	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	43.8%	32.5%	13.9%	9.7%	1146	2.9
GENDER						
Male	48.5%	29.7%	12.2%	9.6%	549	4.2
Female	39.2%	35.2%	15.8%	9.8%	597	4.0
AGE						
<25	30.6%	34.1%	17.2%	18.2%	117	9.1
25-44	39.9%	31.2%	17.8%	11.1%	387	5.0
45-64	46.0%	34.6%	12.3%	7.2%	432	4.7
65+	54.7%	30.1%	8.1%	7.1%	210	6.8
EDUCATION						
High school or less	45.0%	28.4%	16.6%	9.9%	248	6.2
College or CEGEP	50.0%	25.2%	13.2%	11.6%	403	4.9
University or higher	38.1%	40.6%	13.3%	8.0%	495	4.4



<u>Federal Vote Intention – Quebec</u>

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

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	*NDP	# green	BLOC QUÉBECOIS	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	22.2%	21.0%	9.7%	8.4%	38.7%	794	3.5
GENDER							
Male	25.9%	22.1%	9.8%	5.8%	36.4%	386	5.0
Female	21.2%	20.6%	8.8%	9.9%	39.5%	408	4.9
AGE							
<25	7.5%	23.1%	9.5%	22.2%	37.7%	94	10.1
25-44	20.2%	17.8%	12.0%	7.3%	42.7%	304	5.6
45-64	24.2%	20.8%	10.3%	5.2%	39.4%	289	5.8
65+	39.3%	28.3%	1.9%	4.6%	25.7%	107	9.5
EDUCATION							
High school or less	24.1%	18.8%	7.3%	6.3%	43.5%	253	6.2
College or CEGEP	25.8%	18.4%	9.3%	8.8%	37.7%	291	5.7
University or higher	20.5%	27.5%	11.5%	8.3%	32.2%	250	6.2

Federal Vote Intention – Atlantic Canada

	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal	*NDP	# green	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	34.8%	32.4%	26.2%	6.6%	199	7.0
GENDER						
Male	42.2%	27.1%	24.6%	6.1%	87	10.5
Female	26.6%	37.5%	27.1%	8.8%	112	9.3
AGE						
<25	19.3%	27.5%	19.3%	33.9%	13	27.2
25-44	25.0%	35.3%	32.0%	7.6%	67	12.0
45-64	44.9%	26.5%	25.4%	3.2%	88	10.5
65+	39.6%	42.5%	17.9%	0.0%	31	17.6
EDUCATION						
High school or less	28.3%	32.4%	32.3%	7.0%	46	14.5
College or CEGEP	39.2%	29.2%	25.9%	5.7%	75	11.3
University or higher	32.4%	35.8%	22.3%	9.5%	78	11.1



Most important election issue

Q. Which of the following do you think should be the most important issue for the next federal election?

	Social issues	Economic issues	Fiscal issues	None of these	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	33%	41%	17%	9%	3333	1.7
REGION						
British Columbia	36%	35%	20%	9%	317	5.5
Alberta	33%	46%	12%	9%	254	6.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	34%	38%	18%	11%	234	6.4
Ontario	28%	47%	16%	10%	1355	2.7
Quebec	36%	36%	20%	9%	935	3.2
Atlantic Canada	41%	36%	15%	8%	238	6.4
GENDER						
Male	24%	46%	19%	11%	1564	2.5
Female	41%	37%	15%	8%	1769	2.3
AGE						
<25	35%	37%	15%	13%	359	5.2
25-44	35%	38%	16%	11%	1157	2.9
45-64	29%	45%	19%	7%	1273	2.8
65+	33%	43%	16%	7%	544	4.2
EDUCATION						
High school or less	33%	40%	16%	11%	944	3.2
College or CEGEP	33%	42%	17%	7%	1193	2.8
University or higher	32%	42%	17%	10%	1196	2.8
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION						
Conservative Party of Canada	22%	50%	23%	6%	1093	3.0
Liberal Party of Canada	36%	43%	13%	8%	744	3.6
NDP	42%	31%	18%	10%	418	4.8
Green Party	39%	29%	11%	21%	265	6.0
Bloc Quebecois	41%	37%	15%	6%	310	5.6
Undecided	38%	39%	13%	11%	392	5.0



<u>Job approval ratings – Stephen Harper</u>

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Stephen Harper, Prime Minister and leader of Conservative Party of Canada is handling his job?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	39%	42%	19%	3333	1.7
REGION					
British Columbia	36%	44%	20%	317	5.5
Alberta	53%	29%	18%	254	6.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	53%	32%	16%	234	6.4
Ontario	42%	40%	18%	1355	2.7
Quebec	27%	51%	21%	935	3.2
Atlantic Canada	30%	49%	21%	238	6.4
GENDER					
Male	44%	41%	15%	1564	2.5
Female	34%	43%	23%	1769	2.3
AGE					
<25	33%	43%	25%	359	5.2
25-44	36%	46%	18%	1157	2.9
45-64	39%	42%	19%	1273	2.8
65+	47%	35%	18%	544	4.2
EDUCATION					
High school or less	39%	36%	25%	944	3.2
College or CEGEP	41%	39%	20%	1193	2.8
University or higher	36%	50%	15%	1196	2.8
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	80%	9%	11%	1093	3.0
Liberal Party of Canada	16%	67%	16%	744	3.6
NDP	18%	64%	19%	418	4.8
Green Party	18%	59%	23%	265	6.0
Bloc Quebecois	16%	68%	17%	310	5.6
Undecided	18%	41%	41%	392	5.0



<u>Job approval ratings – Michael Ignatieff</u>

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Michael Ignatieff, leader of the Official Opposition and leader of the Liberal Party of Canada is handling his job?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	19%	51%	30%	3333	1.7
REGION					
British Columbia	16%	53%	31%	317	5.5
Alberta	12%	61%	27%	254	6.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	17%	60%	23%	234	6.4
Ontario	21%	50%	29%	1355	2.7
Quebec	21%	45%	33%	935	3.2
Atlantic Canada	24%	47%	29%	238	6.4
GENDER					
Male	22%	55%	23%	1564	2.5
Female	16%	47%	36%	1769	2.3
AGE					
<25	24%	34%	42%	359	5.2
25-44	21%	47%	32%	1157	2.9
45-64	18%	56%	27%	1273	2.8
65+	16%	59%	25%	544	4.2
EDUCATION					
High school or less	16%	49%	34%	944	3.2
College or CEGEP	15%	55%	31%	1193	2.8
University or higher	26%	48%	25%	1196	2.8
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	9%	74%	17%	1093	3.0
Liberal Party of Canada	47%	24%	29%	744	3.6
NDP	15%	53%	32%	418	4.8
Green Party	16%	47%	37%	265	6.0
Bloc Quebecois	18%	54%	28%	310	5.6
Undecided	5%	38%	57%	392	5.0



<u>Job approval ratings – Jack Layton</u>

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada is handling his job?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	34%	31%	35%	3333	1.7
REGION					
British Columbia	34%	34%	32%	317	5.5
Alberta	21%	40%	39%	254	6.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	32%	37%	32%	234	6.4
Ontario	34%	32%	34%	1355	2.7
Quebec	38%	24%	39%	935	3.2
Atlantic Canada	39%	31%	31%	238	6.4
GENDER					
Male	37%	36%	27%	1564	2.5
Female	31%	27%	42%	1769	2.3
AGE					
<25	29%	29%	43%	359	5.2
25-44	35%	31%	34%	1157	2.9
45-64	35%	32%	33%	1273	2.8
65+	33%	34%	33%	544	4.2
EDUCATION					
High school or less	30%	31%	40%	944	3.2
College or CEGEP	34%	31%	36%	1193	2.8
University or higher	38%	33%	30%	1196	2.8
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	32%	40%	29%	1093	3.0
Liberal Party of Canada	32%	37%	32%	744	3.6
NDP	65%	13%	22%	418	4.8
Green Party	30%	30%	40%	265	6.0
Bloc Quebecois	37%	27%	36%	310	5.6
Undecided	14%	25%	61%	392	5.0



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 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 the September 30 – October 6, 2009.¹ In total, a random sample of 3,333 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 2830 decided voters). The margin of error associated with total sample is +/-1.7 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.

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