

PROROGATION REGISTERING

CLEAR LEAN TO DISAPPROVAL

[Ottawa – January 7, 2010] – Most Canadians say they are aware of Stephen Harper’s decision to prorogue Parliament, and among those who are there is strong disapproval – by a margin of about two-to-one.

“The initial evidence is that Canadians are indeed paying attention to the issue of prorogation,” said EKOS President Frank Graves, “and they don’t like it.”

“The Conservatives may have prorogued in part to stem the tide of bad news coming from the parliamentary committee investigating the Afghan detainee issue. However, prorogation may actually be giving new momentum to the downward slide in Tory support than began in late October, and has now taken them well out of majority territory and back toward the ‘worry zone’ where the opposition parties start looking competitive again.”

EKOS Research Associates conducted the poll this week for release by the CBC.

Canadians who said they were aware of the prorogation issue were asked to choose between two statements. Nearly two-thirds opted for: “The elected house of Parliament is the proper place to conduct the business of the nation and suspending Parliament is antidemocratic.” In contrast, just over a third chose the alternative: “By shutting down Parliament, Stephen Harper can consult directly with Canadians in preparation for the next federal budget.”

Not surprisingly, more educated Canadians tend to be more aware of the issue than others; this same group is also tilting strongly towards the opposition parties at the moment. The issue is less known among Quebeckers, young voters, and women – groups with which the government is having problems at the moment for other reasons.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Awareness of the decision to prorogue parliament:**
 - ☒ **52% clearly aware**
 - ☒ **15% vaguely aware**
 - ☒ **33% not aware**
- **Support for proroguing parliament:**
 - ☒ **40% strongly oppose**
 - ☒ **18% somewhat oppose**
 - ☒ **16% somewhat support**
 - ☒ **15% strongly support**
- **Direct consultation versus Parliament as best method for dealing with national business:**
 - ☒ **37% prorogation is a useful way to consult with Canadians**
 - ☒ **63% shutting down Parliament is antidemocratic**

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

Top Line Results:

Awareness of the decision to prorogue Parliament

Q. Are you aware that Stephen Harper has decided to prorogue – that is, suspend – Parliament until early March?

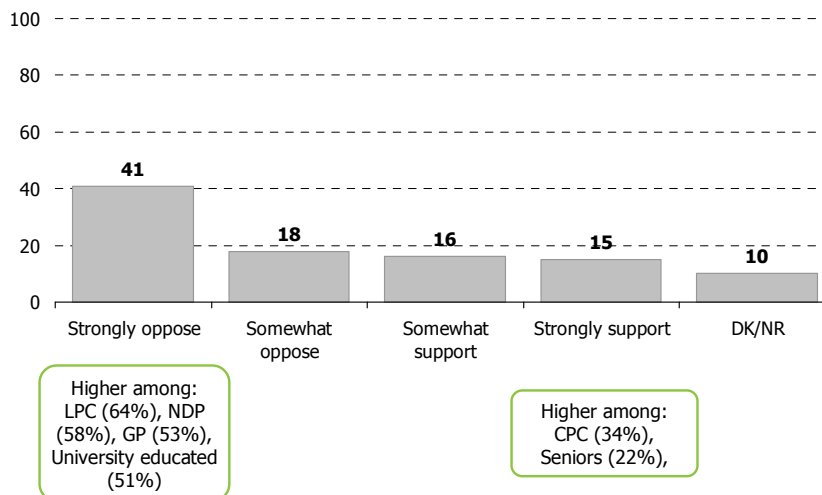


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BASE: Canadians; Jan. 5-6 (n=1114)

Support for proroguing Parliament

Q. [If aware of Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament] Do you support or oppose Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament until early March?

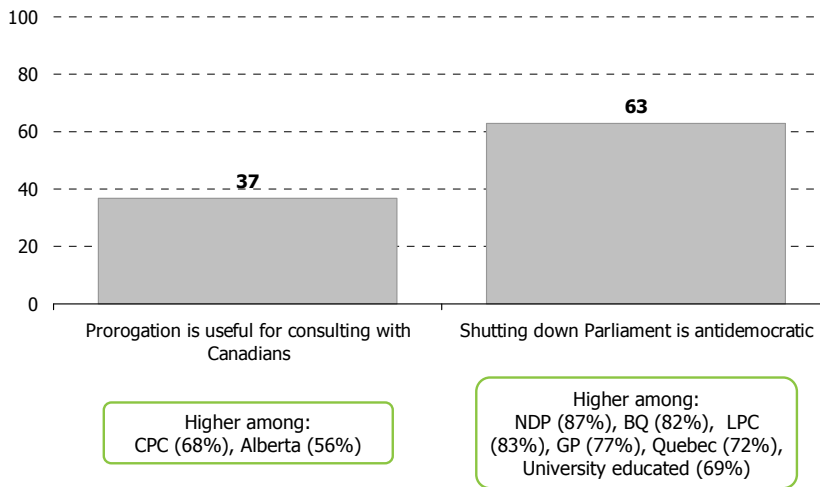


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BASE: Those who are aware of Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament; Jan. 5-6 (n=775)

Direct consultation versus Parliament as best method for dealing with national business

Q. Some people say that by shutting down Parliament, Stephen Harper can consult directly with Canadians in preparation for the next federal budget. Others say that the elected house of Parliament is the proper place to conduct the business of the nation and that suspending Parliament is antidemocratic. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?



Detailed Tables:

| Awareness of the Decision to Prorogue Parliament | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Q. Are you aware that Stephen Harper has decided to prorogue – that is, suspend – Parliament until early March?</i> | | | | | |
| | Yes, clearly | Yes, vaguely | No, not at all | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| NATIONALLY | 52% | 15% | 33% | 1114 | 2.9 |
| REGION | | | | | |
| British Columbia | 57% | 7% | 36% | 104 | 9.6 |
| Alberta | 60% | 16% | 23% | 99 | 9.9 |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba | 59% | 12% | 29% | 72 | 11.6 |
| Ontario | 55% | 14% | 31% | 484 | 4.5 |
| Quebec | 35% | 22% | 43% | 293 | 5.7 |
| Atlantic Canada | 72% | 11% | 17% | 62 | 12.5 |
| GENDER | | | | | |
| Male | 59% | 13% | 28% | 539 | 4.2 |
| Female | 45% | 18% | 37% | 575 | 4.1 |
| AGE | | | | | |
| <25 | 28% | 22% | 50% | 101 | 9.8 |
| 25-44 | 40% | 20% | 40% | 396 | 4.9 |
| 45-64 | 64% | 12% | 24% | 454 | 4.6 |
| 65+ | 76% | 5% | 20% | 163 | 7.7 |
| EDUCATION | | | | | |
| High school or less | 38% | 19% | 43% | 300 | 5.7 |
| College or CEGEP | 48% | 17% | 35% | 345 | 5.3 |
| University or higher | 66% | 11% | 23% | 469 | 4.5 |
| CURRENT VOTE INTENTION | | | | | |
| Conservative Party of Canada | 67% | 12% | 21% | 321 | 5.5 |
| Liberal Party of Canada | 60% | 15% | 25% | 269 | 6.0 |
| NDP | 45% | 15% | 40% | 131 | 8.6 |
| Green Party | 51% | 11% | 38% | 118 | 9.0 |
| Bloc Quebecois | 34% | 18% | 48% | 95 | 10.1 |
| Undecided | 35% | 18% | 46% | 138 | 8.3 |

Support for proroguing Parliament

Q. [If aware of Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament] Do you support or oppose Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament until early March?

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | DK/NR | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| NATIONALLY | 15% | 16% | 18% | 40% | 10% | 775 | 3.5 |
| REGION | | | | | | | |
| British Columbia | 15% | 19% | 9% | 45% | 12% | 70 | 11.7 |
| Alberta | 23% | 21% | 20% | 24% | 12% | 77 | 11.2 |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba | 19% | 20% | 14% | 33% | 15% | 53 | 13.5 |
| Ontario | 15% | 15% | 19% | 43% | 7% | 351 | 5.2 |
| Quebec | 11% | 16% | 19% | 43% | 11% | 171 | 7.5 |
| Atlantic Canada | 9% | 10% | 26% | 44% | 11% | 53 | 13.5 |
| GENDER | | | | | | | |
| Male | 18% | 18% | 15% | 40% | 8% | 396 | 4.9 |
| Female | 11% | 14% | 22% | 41% | 12% | 379 | 5.0 |
| AGE | | | | | | | |
| <25 | 10% | 20% | 18% | 30% | 22% | 48 | 14.1 |
| 25-44 | 13% | 16% | 22% | 34% | 15% | 242 | 6.3 |
| 45-64 | 15% | 16% | 17% | 46% | 7% | 351 | 5.2 |
| 65+ | 22% | 17% | 15% | 46% | 0% | 134 | 8.5 |
| EDUCATION | | | | | | | |
| High school or less | 15% | 23% | 19% | 31% | 12% | 170 | 7.5 |
| College or CEGEP | 16% | 15% | 23% | 32% | 13% | 233 | 6.4 |
| University or higher | 14% | 13% | 14% | 51% | 7% | 372 | 5.1 |
| CURRENT VOTE INTENTION | | | | | | | |
| Conservative Party of Canada | 34% | 26% | 17% | 14% | 10% | 262 | 6.1 |
| Liberal Party of Canada | 4% | 12% | 16% | 64% | 4% | 205 | 6.8 |
| NDP | 7% | 10% | 22% | 58% | 2% | 83 | 10.8 |
| Green Party | 3% | 13% | 21% | 53% | 9% | 74 | 11.4 |
| Bloc Quebecois | 5% | 12% | 17% | 52% | 14% | 48 | 14.1 |
| Undecided | 7% | 3% | 24% | 40% | 26% | 77 | 11.2 |

Direct Consultation vs Parliament as Best Method for Dealing with National Business

Q. Some people say that by shutting down Parliament, Stephen Harper can consult directly with Canadians in preparation for the next federal budget. Others say that the elected house of Parliament is the proper place to conduct the business of the nation and that suspending Parliament is antidemocratic. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

| | Prorogation is a useful way to consult with Canadians | Shutting down Parliament is antidemocratic | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| NATIONALLY | 37% | 63% | 876 | 3.3 |
| REGION | | | | |
| British Columbia | 38% | 62% | 89 | 10.4 |
| Alberta | 55% | 45% | 86 | 10.6 |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba | 39% | 61% | 57 | 13.0 |
| Ontario | 39% | 61% | 383 | 5.0 |
| Quebec | 27% | 73% | 204 | 6.9 |
| Atlantic Canada | 21% | 79% | 57 | 13.0 |
| GENDER | | | | |
| Male | 38% | 62% | 440 | 4.7 |
| Female | 35% | 65% | 436 | 4.7 |
| AGE | | | | |
| <25 | 50% | 50% | 64 | 12.3 |
| 25-44 | 36% | 64% | 294 | 5.7 |
| 45-64 | 33% | 67% | 376 | 5.1 |
| 65+ | 38% | 62% | 142 | 8.2 |
| EDUCATION | | | | |
| High school or less | 40% | 60% | 219 | 6.6 |
| College or CEGEP | 41% | 59% | 262 | 6.1 |
| University or higher | 31% | 69% | 395 | 4.9 |
| CURRENT VOTE INTENTION | | | | |
| Conservative Party of Canada | 68% | 32% | 284 | 5.8 |
| Liberal Party of Canada | 17% | 83% | 221 | 6.6 |
| NDP | 13% | 87% | 96 | 10.0 |
| Green Party | 23% | 77% | 82 | 10.8 |
| Bloc Quebecois | 18% | 82% | 61 | 12.6 |
| Undecided | 32% | 68% | 100 | 9.8 |

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 January 5 – January 6, 2010. In total, a random sample of 1114 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-2.9 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.