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## Conservative Ads on Trudeau Backfiring?

[Ottawa - April 20, 2013] - From Wednesday to Friday of this week, we interviewed a representative sample of some 1,828 English speaking Canadians to gauge reactions to the recent ads about the new leader of the Liberal Party. These ads were introduced by the Conservative Party immediately following his election to leader. Unlike surveys which rely on memories or second hand impressions, the entire sample viewed one of two different ads using digital media. Both ads received very similar responses, and the overall responses are summarized below:

## Ad recall

Q. Before this survey, had you seen this ad?


Ad \#2:
Leadership Comparison

$\square$ No, but I recall hearing of this ad
$\square$ No and I have not heard of it

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The ads were widely recognized. More than one-third of respondents claimed to have already seen the ads and, of those who had not, about as many had heard of them. The most common source was television ( 67 per cent) although a significant number saw them online ( 43 per cent). The highest rates of viewership were in Ontario and among those who voted Liberal in the last election.

## Location of ad

Q. [IF YES] Where did you see this ad? (select all that apply)


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BASE: Anglophone Canadans who recall seeing the ads; April 17-19, 2013 ( $\mathrm{n}=621$ )

The ads were near universally seen as negative, very high majorities found them unfair and unhelpful. Only 5,13 , and 15 per cent saw them as positive, helpful, or fair (respectively). Even among Conservative supporters, most saw them as negative and did not rate them as either fair or helpful in majority terms.

Description of ad
Q. How would you describe this ad?
...negative or positive?

...helpful or unhelpful?
Helpful
Unhelpful

| 4 | 13 | 9 | 74 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

...fair or unfair?


The ads were also seen as largely ineffectual. Most respondents (71 per cent) said they had no impact on their view of Justin Trudeau and of the minority of those who did, positive impacts were nearly twice as common as negative impacts.

## Impact on impression of Justin Trudeau

Q. Do you feel that this ad has changed your impression of Justin Trudeau?



Finally, a content analysis of single word summaries of overall responses to the ads was overwhelmingly negative with words like vicious, unfair and disgusting dominating. ${ }^{1}$


Note: Some words with similar roots were condensed into a single word. For example, "disgust", "disgusts", and "disgusted" were re-coded as "disgusting". Responses were corrected for spelling errors.

In summary, there may be some more subtle long term objective at play but the overall reactions from a large representative sample of English speaking voters suggests that the ads were seen as negative, unhelpful and unfair. Viewer said that for the most part they had no impact and when they did it was more likely to be helpful. Moreover, the global emotional impact on most viewers was very harsh. The ads appear to have done far more damage to the authors of the ads (the Conservative Party) than the intended target.

[^0]
## Top Line Results:

## Ad Recall

Q. Before this survey, had you seen this ad?

|  | Not strong $(1-3)$ | Moderately strong (4) | Extremely strong (5-7) | DK/NR | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NATIONALLY | 35.3\% | 36.6\% | 27.9\% | 0.2\% | 1828 | 2.3 |
| AD SHOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ad \#1 (Quebec comment) | 35.4\% | 34.7\% | 29.6\% | 0.3\% | 926 | 3.2 |
| Ad \#2 (leadership comparison) | 35.3\% | 38.5\% | 26.2\% | 0.1\% | 903 | 3.3 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| British Columbia | 25.9\% | 31.2\% | 42.7\% | 0.2\% | 349 | 5.3 |
| Alberta | 27.1\% | 40.0\% | 32.9\% | 0.0\% | 277 | 5.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 35.5\% | 41.0\% | 23.0\% | 0.6\% | 114 | 9.2 |
| Manitoba | 22.8\% | 48.1\% | 28.6\% | 0.5\% | 123 | 8.8 |
| Ontario | 43.6\% | 37.1\% | 19.1\% | 0.2\% | 525 | 4.3 |
| Quebec | 32.5\% | 37.1\% | 29.6\% | 0.8\% | 104 | 9.6 |
| Atlantic Canada | 32.7\% | 30.3\% | 37.1\% | 0.0\% | 318 | 5.5 |
| GENDER |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 36.4\% | 39.9\% | 23.5\% | 0.2\% | 1062 | 3.0 |
| Female | 34.2\% | 33.5\% | 32.2\% | 0.2\% | 766 | 3.5 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school or less | 26.4\% | 26.7\% | 46.5\% | 0.4\% | 180 | 7.3 |
| College or CEGEP | 35.8\% | 24.6\% | 39.4\% | 0.2\% | 434 | 4.7 |
| University or higher | 36.2\% | 41.8\% | 21.9\% | 0.1\% | 1214 | 2.8 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada | 35.0\% | 35.8\% | 29.0\% | 0.1\% | 1538 | 2.5 |
| Other | 37.2\% | 41.7\% | 20.6\% | 0.6\% | 290 | 5.8 |
| 2011 VOTE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Did not vote | 18.6\% | 16.5\% | 64.9\% | 0.0\% | 54 | 13.3 |
| Conservative Party | 33.3\% | 37.0\% | 29.4\% | 0.3\% | 478 | 4.5 |
| NDP | 32.3\% | 36.4\% | 31.2\% | 0.1\% | 523 | 4.3 |
| Liberal Party | 44.3\% | 38.2\% | 17.4\% | 0.1\% | 561 | 4.1 |
| Green Party | 22.0\% | 51.3\% | 26.7\% | 0.0\% | 136 | 8.4 |
| Other | 15.7\% | 22.3\% | 62.0\% | 0.0\% | 20 | 21.9 |

Location of Ad
Q. Where did you see this ad? (select all that apply)

|  | Television | Online | Other | DK/NR | Sample <br> Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NATIONALLY | 67.5\% | 42.6\% | 2.3\% | 0.1\% | 621 | 3.9 |
| AD SHOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ad \#1 (Quebec comment) | 64.3\% | 45.3\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 297 | 5.7 |
| Ad \#2 (leadership comparison) | 71.0\% | 40.1\% | 2.8\% | 0.2\% | 325 | 5.4 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| British Columbia | 58.0\% | 49.5\% | 2.2\% | 0.6\% | 89 | 10.4 |
| Alberta | 48.0\% | 59.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 65 | 12.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 95.9\% | 35.2\% | 25.2\% | 0.0\% | 39 | 15.7 |
| Manitoba | 82.0\% | 30.6\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 34 | 16.8 |
| Ontario | 69.2\% | 38.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 236 | 6.4 |
| Quebec | 76.6\% | 52.7\% | 2.6\% | 0.0\% | 38 | 15.9 |
| Atlantic Canada | 71.2\% | 45.1\% | 1.5\% | 0.3\% | 120 | 9.0 |
| GENDER |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 62.3\% | 47.3\% | 0.8\% | 0.2\% | 371 | 5.1 |
| Female | 72.8\% | 37.9\% | 3.7\% | 0.0\% | 250 | 6.2 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school or less | 71.2\% | 29.8\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 53 | 13.5 |
| College or CEGEP | 76.2\% | 31.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 153 | 7.9 |
| University or higher | 64.3\% | 47.5\% | 3.1\% | 0.1\% | 415 | 4.8 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada | 66.3\% | 44.4\% | 2.1\% | 0.1\% | 523 | 4.3 |
| Other | 74.9\% | 31.8\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 98 | 9.9 |
| 2011 VOTE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Did not vote | 87.6\% | 43.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 15 | 25.3 |
| Conservative Party | 83.7\% | 21.8\% | 1.5\% | 0.2\% | 158 | 7.8 |
| NDP | 71.3\% | 42.9\% | 2.3\% | 0.0\% | 175 | 7.4 |
| Liberal Party | 61.9\% | 45.9\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 221 | 6.6 |
| Green Party | 54.2\% | 48.3\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 34 | 16.8 |
| Other | 83.8\% | 40.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5 | 43.8 |

Impression of ad: Negative versus Positive
Q. How would you describe this ad? Negative or positive?

|  | Negative $(1-2)$ | Neither (3) | Positive (4-5) | DK/NR | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NATIONALLY | 84.1\% | 8.0\% | 4.6\% | 3.3\% | 1828 | 2.3 |
| AD SHOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ad \#1 (Quebec comment) | 84.0\% | 6.3\% | 5.8\% | 4.0\% | 926 | 3.2 |
| Ad \#2 (leadership comparison) | 84.1\% | 9.8\% | 3.5\% | 2.6\% | 903 | 3.3 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| British Columbia | 89.0\% | 6.1\% | 3.4\% | 1.6\% | 349 | 5.3 |
| Alberta | 79.4\% | 10.3\% | 3.6\% | 6.6\% | 277 | 5.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 89.6\% | 5.6\% | 2.8\% | 2.1\% | 114 | 9.2 |
| Manitoba | 90.7\% | 6.6\% | 1.5\% | 1.2\% | 123 | 8.8 |
| Ontario | 83.7\% | 7.6\% | 6.4\% | 2.3\% | 525 | 4.3 |
| Quebec | 81.0\% | 14.2\% | 0.9\% | 4.0\% | 104 | 9.6 |
| Atlantic Canada | 81.0\% | 9.3\% | 3.8\% | 5.9\% | 318 | 5.5 |
| GENDER |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 84.1\% | 7.8\% | 6.5\% | 1.6\% | 1062 | 3.0 |
| Female | 84.0\% | 8.2\% | 2.9\% | 4.9\% | 766 | 3.5 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school or less | 69.0\% | 18.8\% | 6.3\% | 6.0\% | 180 | 7.3 |
| College or CEGEP | 77.7\% | 11.3\% | 7.0\% | 4.0\% | 434 | 4.7 |
| University or higher | 88.0\% | 5.6\% | 3.7\% | 2.8\% | 1214 | 2.8 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada | 84.3\% | 8.0\% | 4.1\% | 3.6\% | 1538 | 2.5 |
| Other | 82.4\% | 7.9\% | 8.5\% | 1.2\% | 290 | 5.8 |
| 2011 VOTE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Did not vote | 76.2\% | 8.7\% | 4.5\% | 10.5\% | 54 | 13.3 |
| Conservative Party | 67.0\% | 16.1\% | 13.9\% | 3.0\% | 478 | 4.5 |
| NDP | 87.9\% | 5.1\% | 2.2\% | 4.8\% | 523 | 4.3 |
| Liberal Party | 93.0\% | 4.1\% | 1.6\% | 1.3\% | 561 | 4.1 |
| Green Party | 92.5\% | 4.4\% | 0.4\% | 2.7\% | 136 | 8.4 |
| Other | 81.6\% | 11.8\% | 2.3\% | 4.3\% | 20 | 21.9 |



## Impression of ad: Helpful versus Unhelpful

Q. How would you describe this ad? Helpful or unhelpful?

|  | Unhelpful $(1-2)$ | Neither (3) | Helpful (4-5) | DK/NR | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NATIONALLY | 73.9\% | 9.2\% | 12.7\% | 4.3\% | 1828 | 2.3 |
| AD SHOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ad \#1 (Quebec comment) | 74.0\% | 8.0\% | 13.8\% | 4.2\% | 926 | 3.2 |
| Ad \#2 (leadership comparison) | 73.6\% | 10.4\% | 11.7\% | 4.3\% | 903 | 3.3 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| British Columbia | 71.4\% | 12.2\% | 14.5\% | 2.0\% | 349 | 5.3 |
| Alberta | 71.4\% | 12.4\% | 10.3\% | 5.9\% | 277 | 5.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 80.6\% | 8.4\% | 6.5\% | 4.5\% | 114 | 9.2 |
| Manitoba | 85.8\% | 6.3\% | 5.6\% | 2.3\% | 123 | 8.8 |
| Ontario | 73.5\% | 7.8\% | 14.7\% | 4.1\% | 525 | 4.3 |
| Quebec | 80.3\% | 3.1\% | 10.9\% | 5.6\% | 104 | 9.6 |
| Atlantic Canada | 73.5\% | 9.8\% | 11.4\% | 5.3\% | 318 | 5.5 |
| GENDER |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 71.0\% | 9.6\% | 16.1\% | 3.4\% | 1062 | 3.0 |
| Female | 76.6\% | 8.8\% | 9.5\% | 5.1\% | 766 | 3.5 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school or less | 43.5\% | 27.9\% | 22.3\% | 6.4\% | 180 | 7.3 |
| College or CEGEP | 67.3\% | 11.9\% | 16.8\% | 4.0\% | 434 | 4.7 |
| University or higher | 79.7\% | 6.0\% | 10.2\% | 4.1\% | 1214 | 2.8 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada | 74.5\% | 8.9\% | 12.5\% | 4.2\% | 1538 | 2.5 |
| Other | 69.9\% | 11.2\% | 14.2\% | 4.7\% | 290 | 5.8 |
| 2011 VOTE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Did not vote | 69.0\% | 14.6\% | 7.7\% | 8.7\% | 54 | 13.3 |
| Conservative Party | 42.2\% | 20.0\% | 35.4\% | 2.4\% | 478 | 4.5 |
| NDP | 81.2\% | 7.1\% | 5.4\% | 6.4\% | 523 | 4.3 |
| Liberal Party | 91.7\% | 3.5\% | 2.9\% | 2.0\% | 561 | 4.1 |
| Green Party | 83.6\% | 6.5\% | 6.7\% | 3.2\% | 136 | 8.4 |
| Other | 52.6\% | 0.0\% | 6.2\% | 41.2\% | 20 | 21.9 |

Impression of ad: Fair versus Unfair
Q. How would you describe this ad? Fair or unfair?

|  | Unfair (1-2) | Neither (3) | Fair (4-5) | DK/NR | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NATIONALLY | 70.5\% | 10.3\% | 14.8\% | 4.5\% | 1828 | 2.3 |
| AD SHOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ad \#1 (Quebec comment) | 73.3\% | 9.2\% | 14.2\% | 3.3\% | 926 | 3.2 |
| Ad \#2 (leadership comparison) | 67.4\% | 11.4\% | 15.5\% | 5.7\% | 903 | 3.3 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| British Columbia | 71.3\% | 13.7\% | 12.9\% | 2.1\% | 349 | 5.3 |
| Alberta | 67.3\% | 13.1\% | 13.7\% | 5.9\% | 277 | 5.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 68.3\% | 12.6\% | 7.8\% | 11.4\% | 114 | 9.2 |
| Manitoba | 74.3\% | 10.4\% | 10.2\% | 5.1\% | 123 | 8.8 |
| Ontario | 70.3\% | 8.6\% | 17.4\% | 3.7\% | 525 | 4.3 |
| Quebec | 84.5\% | 5.0\% | 5.1\% | 5.4\% | 104 | 9.6 |
| Atlantic Canada | 69.7\% | 9.3\% | 16.2\% | 4.8\% | 318 | 5.5 |
| GENDER |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 67.9\% | 10.1\% | 19.5\% | 2.6\% | 1062 | 3.0 |
| Female | 73.0\% | 10.5\% | 10.3\% | 6.3\% | 766 | 3.5 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school or less | 51.4\% | 20.0\% | 21.2\% | 7.4\% | 180 | 7.3 |
| College or CEGEP | 63.6\% | 9.6\% | 20.9\% | 5.9\% | 434 | 4.7 |
| University or higher | 75.1\% | 9.3\% | 12.0\% | 3.6\% | 1214 | 2.8 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada | 71.0\% | 9.8\% | 14.9\% | 4.3\% | 1538 | 2.5 |
| Other | 66.8\% | 13.6\% | 14.1\% | 5.5\% | 290 | 5.8 |
| $2011 \text { VOTE }$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Did not vote | 67.8\% | 9.1\% | 13.7\% | 9.4\% | 54 | 13.3 |
| Conservative Party | 35.8\% | 19.0\% | 41.0\% | 4.1\% | 478 | 4.5 |
| NDP | 79.2\% | 9.3\% | 7.4\% | 4.1\% | 523 | 4.3 |
| Liberal Party | 90.9\% | 4.4\% | 2.5\% | 2.2\% | 561 | 4.1 |
| Green Party | 82.1\% | 9.1\% | 6.1\% | 2.8\% | 136 | 8.4 |
| Other | 39.1\% | 10.7\% | 6.2\% | 44.0\% | 20 | 21.9 |



## Impact on Impression of Justin Trudeau

Q. Do you feel that this ad has changed your impression of Justin Trudeau?

|  | Yes, positively | Yes, negatively | No | DK/NR | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NATIONALLY | 15.8\% | 8.8\% | 71.4\% | 4.1\% | 1828 | 2.3 |
| AD SHOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ad \#1 (Quebec comment) | 16.0\% | 10.1\% | 70.4\% | 3.5\% | 926 | 3.2 |
| Ad \#2 (leadership comparison) | 15.6\% | 7.5\% | 72.3\% | 4.7\% | 903 | 3.3 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| British Columbia | 11.4\% | 11.7\% | 75.4\% | 1.5\% | 349 | 5.3 |
| Alberta | 9.5\% | 10.7\% | 72.5\% | 7.4\% | 277 | 5.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 21.5\% | 9.5\% | 65.5\% | 3.5\% | 114 | 9.2 |
| Manitoba | 17.5\% | 7.9\% | 71.9\% | 2.7\% | 123 | 8.8 |
| Ontario | 18.8\% | 6.7\% | 70.7\% | 3.9\% | 525 | 4.3 |
| Quebec | 6.5\% | 4.4\% | 88.3\% | 0.8\% | 104 | 9.6 |
| Atlantic Canada | 17.8\% | 12.4\% | 63.5\% | 6.4\% | 318 | 5.5 |
| GENDER |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 20.3\% | 9.6\% | 67.6\% | 2.5\% | 1062 | 3.0 |
| Female | 11.4\% | 8.0\% | 75.0\% | 5.6\% | 766 | 3.5 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school or less | 5.2\% | 10.8\% | 79.2\% | 4.9\% | 180 | 7.3 |
| College or CEGEP | 17.3\% | 14.9\% | 58.8\% | 9.0\% | 434 | 4.7 |
| University or higher | 16.6\% | 6.5\% | 74.6\% | 2.4\% | 1214 | 2.8 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada | 14.6\% | 9.1\% | 72.4\% | 3.9\% | 1538 | 2.5 |
| Other | 23.4\% | 6.9\% | 64.2\% | 5.5\% | 290 | 5.8 |
| 2011 VOTE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Did not vote | 3.9\% | 12.0\% | 61.0\% | 23.1\% | 54 | 13.3 |
| Conservative Party | 4.4\% | 18.5\% | 72.7\% | 4.3\% | 478 | 4.5 |
| NDP | 17.4\% | 5.9\% | 73.8\% | 3.0\% | 523 | 4.3 |
| Liberal Party | 23.1\% | 1.9\% | 73.5\% | 1.5\% | 561 | 4.1 |
| Green Party | 13.2\% | 7.2\% | 79.1\% | 0.5\% | 136 | 8.4 |
| Other | 12.9\% | 2.3\% | 40.5\% | 44.3\% | 20 | 21.9 |

## Methodology:

This study was conducted exclusively online using EKOS' unique, hybrid online/telephone research panel, Probit. Our panel offers exhaustive coverage of the Canadian population (i.e., Internet, phone, cell phone), random recruitment (in other words, participants are recruited randomly, they do not opt themselves into our panel), and equal probability sampling. All respondents to our panel are recruited by telephone using random digit dialling and are confirmed by live interviewers. Unlike opt-in online panels, Probit supports margin of error estimates. We believe this to be the only probability-based online panel in Canada.

In this survey, we tested two separate ads. Each respondent was shown one of the two ads selected at random. In cases where there were no significant differences between the two ads, the results were amalgamated together. In total, 926 respondents were shown "Ad \#1", which depicts Justin Trudeau making some "Quebec-centric" remarks, while 902 respondents were shown "Ad \#2", which compares the accomplishments of Justin Trudeau and Stephen Harper.

The field dates for this survey are April 17-19, 2013. In total, 1,828 English-speaking Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey. Note that the pool of respondents was restricted to those panellists who indicated a preference for completing surveys in English. The survey results should therefore be considered generalizeable to English Canada. The margin of error associated with the total sample is $+/-2.3$ percentage points, 19 times out of 20 . The survey was conducted in English only.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as sex, age, education and region). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The question was worded: "If you were to summarize your reaction to this ad in one word, what would it be? (for example, amusing, helpful, vicious, fair, etc. ${ }^{\prime}$ ".

