



NARROW CONSERVATIVE LEAD IN A NEWLY THREE-WAY RACE

CAN THE OPPOSITION CHANGE THE CHANNEL FROM MIDDLE EAST TO MIDDLE CLASS?

[Ottawa – March 27, 2015] Our latest polling shows an insignificant but continued decline in Liberal fortunes. The Liberals are now below 29 points for the first time in a long time and the long-term trend is not positive. The Conservatives, while down from a high of 35 points, now enjoy a small but statistically significant lead based on the Liberal decline.

The real story here, however, may be a gradual but significant rebound in NDP fortunes, who have climbed from below 18 points to just over 23 and they now trail the Liberals by just five points. The NDP now have a strengthened lead in Quebec and are showing renewed strength elsewhere in the country. Indeed, the whole political calculus of voters may change under these circumstances, as the promiscuous progressive segment (who focuses more on how best to depose Mr. Harper rather than a specific progressive option) may start looking more carefully at the NDP.

While this is a poor poll for the Liberals, there is very little good news for Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party. The party has stalled (and may actually be falling back), and confidence in direction of the federal government is dropping. Support for the ISIS mission, to which Mr. Harper has tied himself, is beginning to fade. Support for extending the mission is quickly dropping and Mr. Harper is likely to find himself on the wrong side of this issue very shortly. Furthermore, the economy looks downright brutal to citizens. All of

HIGHLIGHTS

- Federal vote intention:
 - **¤ 31.8% Conservative Party**
 - **28.5% Liberal Party**
 - **¤ 23.2% NDP**
 - **¤ 8.7%** Green Party
 - **¤ 4.7% Bloc Québécois**
 - **¤ 3.1% Other**
- Best plan for improving the country:
 - **¤ 26% Conservative Party**
 - **¤ 22% NDP**
 - **¤ 21% Liberal Party**
 - **¤ 18% Other**
- Best plan for individual citizens:
 - **¤ 26% Conservative Party**
 - **¤ 22% Liberal Party**
 - **¤ 21% NDP**
 - **¤ 19% Other**
- Clearest plan:
 - **¤ 27% Conservative Party**
 - **¤ 20% Liberal Party**
 - **¤ 18% NDP**
 - ¤ 23% Other

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



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these factors present some clear areas of opportunity for both the Liberals and the NDP (as well as the Green Party and Bloc Québécois).

¹ EKOS Research Associates, "Support for Current ISIS Mission Beginning to Sag", March 26, 2015. Available online at: http://goo.gl/MexQv0

² EKOS Research Associates, "Voters Stuck", March 13, 2015. Available online at: http://goo.gl/5YMJAp





Federal vote intention

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

National Results



2011 Election Results



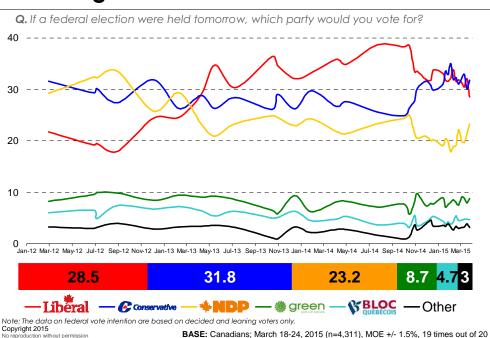


Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only.

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BASE: Canadians; March 18-24, 2015 (n=4,311), MOE +/- 1.5%, 19 times out of 20

Tracking federal vote intention

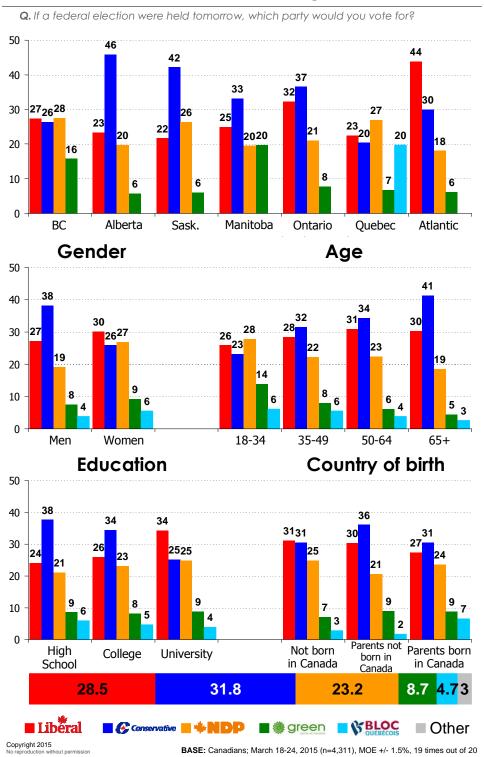


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Vote intention by key demographics



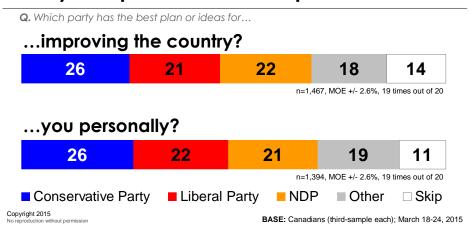




Clarity a problem for Liberals?

The longer term decline for the Liberals is in part a product of terror and security, but results also seem to suggest that the Liberals' numbers are suffering over a lack of clarity as to what the party plans to do for the country and its citizens. In contrast, NDP improvements may be linked to staking out a clear stance on issues such as Bill C-51 and the ISIS mission. However, the narrow three-point advantage enjoyed by the Conservatives is hardly insurmountable and the issues that resurrected their fortunes may have a limited shelf life. The key challenge for opposition parties will be to turn the channel from the Middle East to the middle class.

Party that presents the best plan

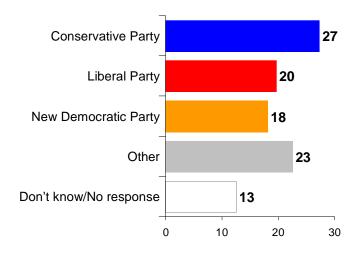






Party that presents the clearest plan

Q. Which party has the clearest plan or ideas for the future?

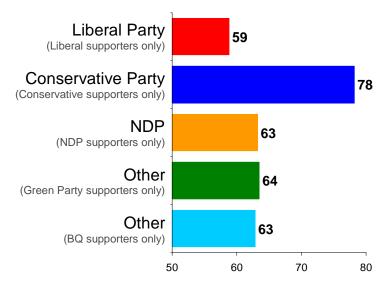


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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-24, 2015 (n=1,450), MOE +/- 2.6%, 19 times out of 20

In-party ratings for clarity

Q. Which party has the CLEAREST plan or ideas for the future?



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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-24, 2015 (n=1,450), MOE +/- 2.6%, 19 times out of 20

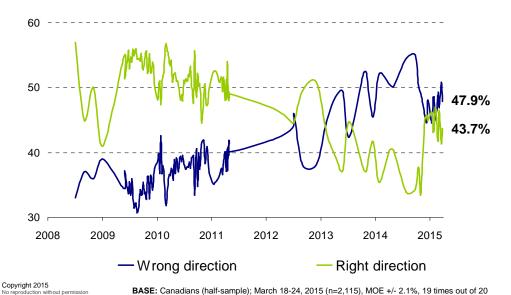




Direction of country/government:

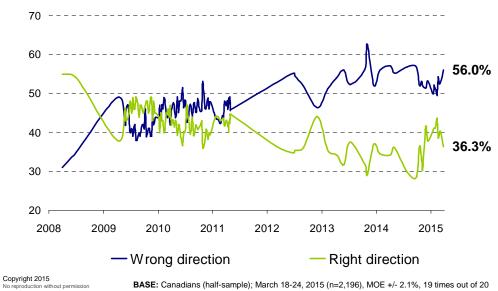
Direction of country

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



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:

National Federal Vote Intention (decided and leaning voters only)

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?
[If undecided] Even if you do not have a firm idea, are you leaning towards a party?
[If yes] As it stands, towards which party are you leaning?

	Liberal Party	Conser- vative Party	NDP	Green Party	Bloc Québécois	Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	28.5%	31.8%	23.2%	8.7%	4.7%	3.1%	3515	1.7
REGION								
British Columbia	27.4%	26.3%	27.5%	15.7%	_	3.1%	545	4.2
Alberta	23.4%	45.9%	19.7%	5.7%	_	5.2%	378	5.0
Saskatchewan	21.6%	42.1%	26.4%	6.0%	_	3.8%	178	7.4
Manitoba	25.0%	33.1%	19.5%	19.7%	_	2.7%	159	7.8
Ontario	32.2%	36.6%	21.1%	7.8%	_	2.4%	1304	2.7
Quebec	22.5%	20.3%	26.9%	6.8%	19.8%	3.8%	607	4.0
Atlantic Canada	43.9%	29.9%	18.1%	6.2%	_	1.9%	321	5.5
GENDER								
Male	27.2%	38.1%	19.1%	7.5%	3.9%	4.1%	1744	2.4
Female	30.2%	25.9%	27.0%	9.3%	5.6%	2.1%	1732	2.4
AGE								
<35	25.8%	23.1%	27.8%	13.9%	6.2%	3.2%	308	5.6
35-49	28.4%	31.6%	22.2%	8.0%	5.6%	4.2%	631	3.9
50-64	30.9%	34.3%	22.5%	6.2%	3.9%	2.3%	1250	2.8
65+	30.3%	41.2%	18.5%	4.5%	2.6%	2.9%	1291	2.7
EDUCATION								
High school or less	24.1%	37.7%	21.1%	8.6%	5.9%	2.5%	909	3.3
College or CEGEP	25.9%	34.4%	23.2%	8.2%	4.7%	3.7%	1113	2.9
University or higher	34.2%	25.2%	24.8%	8.7%	3.9%	3.2%	1438	2.6
COUNTRY OF BIRTH								
Not born in Canada	31.1%	30.5%	24.8%	7.1%	2.8%	3.7%	578	4.1
Parents not born in Canada	30.3%	36.1%	20.7%	8.9%	1.7%	2.2%	865	3.3
Both parents born in Canada	27.4%	30.5%	23.6%	8.7%	6.5%	3.3%	2036	2.2





Party with Best Plan for the Country

Q. [Third-sample only] Which party has the best plan or ideas for IMPROVING THE COUNTRY?

	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	NDP	Other	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	21.3%	25.5%	21.6%	17.6%	14.0%	1467	2.6
REGION							
British Columbia	21.1%	19.3%	27.8%	15.6%	16.1%	222	6.6
Alberta	16.8%	36.1%	9.7%	18.9%	18.4%	171	7.5
Saskatchewan	18.6%	17.0%	36.7%	12.5%	15.1%	65	12.2
Manitoba	29.8%	29.1%	19.6%	14.9%	6.6%	68	11.9
Ontario	21.7%	30.1%	17.5%	18.3%	12.4%	539	4.2
Quebec	16.4%	18.6%	32.1%	19.4%	13.5%	249	6.2
Atlantic Canada	38.1%	20.6%	12.7%	10.3%	18.3%	140	8.3
GENDER							
Male	24.2%	32.0%	19.7%	17.1%	7.0%	677	3.8
Female	20.6%	22.1%	25.8%	19.7%	11.8%	703	3.7
AGE							
<35	22.3%	19.4%	30.0%	18.5%	9.7%	120	9.0
35-49	22.1%	27.2%	18.2%	20.6%	12.0%	257	6.1
50-64	22.9%	28.9%	21.4%	17.5%	9.3%	489	4.4
65+	22.3%	34.6%	21.1%	15.6%	6.3%	517	4.3
EDUCATION							
High school or less	22.1%	29.0%	20.0%	19.2%	9.8%	348	5.3
College or CEGEP	21.9%	29.2%	22.6%	18.3%	8.0%	473	4.5
University or higher	23.8%	23.0%	25.6%	17.8%	9.9%	544	4.2
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Not born in Canada	24.8%	25.0%	21.5%	18.1%	10.5%	217	6.7
Parents not born in Canada	23.5%	29.9%	18.8%	18.1%	9.8%	340	5.3
Both parents born in Canada	21.6%	26.5%	24.6%	18.7%	8.6%	820	3.4
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	67.3%	8.2%	10.9%	7.6%	6.0%	374	5.1
Conservative Party	7.0%	82.3%	2.1%	4.6%	4.0%	410	4.8
NDP	4.4%	3.8%	75.3%	11.3%	5.2%	248	6.2
Green Party	11.1%	1.9%	20.0%	60.1%	6.9%	79	11.0
Bloc Québécois	6.2%	0.0%	39.5%	47.0%	7.3%	34	16.8





Party with Best Plan for the Individual

Q. [Third-sample only] Which party has the best plan or ideas for YOU PERSONALLY?

	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	NDP	Other	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	22.3%	26.4%	21.1%	19.1%	11.0%	1394	2.6
REGION							
British Columbia	18.7%	28.5%	19.8%	22.0%	11.1%	199	7.0
Alberta	13.8%	39.0%	16.4%	18.3%	12.6%	150	8.0
Saskatchewan	17.5%	32.9%	19.4%	20.2%	10.0%	75	11.3
Manitoba	18.7%	25.0%	14.3%	18.3%	23.7%	63	12.4
Ontario	24.5%	29.0%	20.1%	15.6%	10.8%	512	4.3
Quebec	25.1%	15.7%	28.0%	24.1%	7.1%	254	6.2
Atlantic Canada	25.0%	24.0%	17.5%	16.3%	17.2%	136	8.4
GENDER							
Male	23.1%	33.2%	20.7%	17.4%	5.6%	659	3.8
Female	23.8%	22.4%	23.1%	21.7%	8.9%	664	3.8
AGE							
<35	24.9%	19.6%	22.1%	25.6%	7.9%	127	8.7
35-49	17.4%	30.0%	26.0%	19.3%	7.3%	232	6.4
50-64	25.8%	27.3%	21.1%	17.5%	8.3%	486	4.5
65+	25.5%	36.5%	17.6%	15.1%	5.4%	483	4.5
EDUCATION							
High school or less	20.4%	32.8%	21.5%	19.0%	6.3%	396	4.9
College or CEGEP	20.8%	28.6%	21.4%	20.8%	8.5%	400	4.9
University or higher	27.9%	21.9%	22.9%	19.8%	7.5%	527	4.3
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Not born in Canada	31.5%	24.5%	19.1%	19.3%	5.6%	217	6.7
Parents not born in Canada	25.5%	29.1%	17.9%	20.7%	6.9%	334	5.4
Both parents born in Canada	20.0%	28.1%	24.4%	19.7%	7.8%	771	3.5
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	75.0%	6.9%	7.9%	6.4%	3.9%	329	5.4
Conservative Party	4.7%	82.4%	4.2%	5.4%	3.3%	399	4.9
NDP	9.6%	2.7%	73.1%	10.7%	3.8%	261	6.1
Green Party	14.6%	7.2%	8.9%	67.3%	2.1%	80	11.0
Bloc Québécois	6.8%	0.9%	28.3%	53.3%	10.7%	36	16.3





Party that Presents the Clearest Plan

Q. [Third-sample only] Which party has the clearest plan or ideas for the future?

	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	NDP	Other	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	19.7%	27.3%	18.1%	22.5%	12.5%	1450	2.6
REGION							
British Columbia	19.7%	26.8%	18.0%	19.7%	15.7%	232	6.4
Alberta	20.6%	31.4%	14.4%	17.3%	16.3%	164	7.7
Saskatchewan	16.3%	32.9%	15.0%	13.3%	22.5%	80	11.0
Manitoba	13.2%	23.9%	8.1%	36.6%	18.2%	71	11.6
Ontario	17.6%	31.3%	17.0%	21.9%	12.2%	537	4.2
Quebec	19.3%	19.9%	26.0%	27.7%	7.1%	230	6.5
Atlantic Canada	34.9%	24.4%	13.6%	17.4%	9.7%	127	8.7
GENDER							
Male	21.2%	34.9%	16.1%	20.6%	7.1%	672	3.8
Female	20.1%	22.9%	20.9%	26.2%	10.0%	705	3.7
AGE							
<35	23.0%	22.1%	19.6%	28.2%	7.0%	131	8.6
35-49	17.2%	27.5%	18.3%	25.1%	12.0%	259	6.1
50-64	20.7%	30.5%	19.5%	22.6%	6.7%	480	4.5
65+	22.7%	37.2%	17.5%	16.4%	6.2%	502	4.4
EDUCATION							
High school or less	24.2%	24.7%	15.7%	29.0%	6.3%	361	5.2
College or CEGEP	18.8%	32.1%	18.6%	23.2%	7.3%	440	4.7
University or higher	19.4%	29.0%	22.4%	20.3%	9.0%	554	4.2
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Not born in Canada	25.9%	30.1%	17.8%	19.0%	7.2%	259	6.1
Parents not born in Canada	21.3%	36.3%	16.6%	18.3%	7.5%	342	5.3
Both parents born in Canada	18.6%	25.1%	20.2%	27.2%	9.0%	776	3.5
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	58.8%	11.5%	8.2%	15.4%	6.1%	360	5.2
Conservative Party	5.4%	78.2%	3.5%	8.1%	4.9%	420	4.8
NDP	6.7%	9.8%	63.2%	12.3%	7.9%	251	6.2
Green Party	9.8%	7.5%	13.1%	63.5%	6.1%	88	10.5
Bloc Québécois	11.5%	0.9%	20.6%	62.8%	4.2%	42	15.1





Direction of Country

Q. [Half-sample only] All things considered, would you say the country is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	43.7%	47.9%	8.4%	2115	2.1
REGION					
British Columbia	41.7%	45.1%	13.2%	311	5.6
Alberta	49.0%	37.3%	13.7%	243	6.3
Saskatchewan	52.7%	34.2%	13.2%	111	9.3
Manitoba	39.9%	53.8%	6.3%	98	9.9
Ontario	47.1%	45.4%	7.6%	791	3.5
Quebec	38.8%	56.2%	5.1%	355	5.2
Atlantic Canada	34.8%	59.6%	5.5%	199	7.0
GENDER					
Male	50.8%	45.4%	3.8%	977	3.1
Female	41.7%	54.4%	3.9%	1019	3.1
AGE					
<35	40.9%	56.0%	3.1%	186	7.2
35-49	45.6%	50.5%	3.9%	348	5.3
50-64	47.3%	49.6%	3.1%	698	3.7
65+	52.7%	42.4%	5.0%	761	3.6
EDUCATION					
High school or less	51.0%	45.5%	3.5%	510	4.3
College or CEGEP	48.4%	47.4%	4.2%	677	3.8
University or higher	40.5%	56.8%	2.7%	788	3.5
COUNTRY OF BIRTH					
Not born in Canada	52.1%	40.8%	7.1%	342	5.3
Parents not born in Canada	48.3%	47.9%	3.8%	488	4.4
Both parents born in Canada	42.9%	54.6%	2.5%	1156	2.9
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Liberal Party	37.1%	59.3%	3.7%	517	4.3
Conservative Party	79.1%	19.2%	1.8%	590	4.0
NDP	27.4%	71.2%	1.4%	365	5.1
Green Party	26.0%	71.2%	2.8%	121	8.9
Bloc Québécois	47.3%	52.7%	0.0%	53	13.5





Direction of Government

Q. [Half-sample only] 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 Erro (+/-)
NATIONALLY	36.3%	56.0%	7.7%	2196	2.1
REGION					
British Columbia	34.0%	58.9%	7.1%	342	5.3
Alberta	47.6%	41.2%	11.2%	242	6.3
Saskatchewan	42.4%	47.9%	9.8%	109	9.4
Manitoba	32.4%	57.0%	10.6%	104	9.6
Ontario	37.5%	55.2%	7.3%	797	3.5
Quebec	30.9%	63.4%	5.7%	378	5.0
Atlantic Canada	36.6%	53.6%	9.8%	204	6.9
GENDER					
Male	43.8%	51.8%	4.4%	1031	3.1
Female	32.2%	63.6%	4.2%	1053	3.0
AGE					
<35	30.0%	64.3%	5.7%	192	7.1
35-49	36.2%	59.3%	4.5%	400	4.9
50-64	38.6%	57.5%	3.9%	757	3.6
65+	50.0%	46.4%	3.6%	741	3.6
EDUCATION					
High school or less	48.3%	46.0%	5.7%	595	4.0
College or CEGEP	36.5%	59.8%	3.7%	636	3.9
University or higher	29.4%	66.9%	3.7%	837	3.4
COUNTRY OF BIRTH					
Not born in Canada	43.2%	51.1%	5.7%	351	5.2
Parents not born in Canada	37.3%	58.2%	4.4%	528	4.3
Both parents born in Canada	36.6%	59.5%	3.8%	1211	2.8
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Liberal Party	26.9%	70.5%	2.6%	546	4.2
Conservative Party	83.7%	12.5%	3.8%	639	3.9
NDP	12.7%	83.6%	3.8%	395	4.9
Green Party	14.7%	79.5%	5.8%	126	8.7
Bloc Québécois	2.8%	91.6%	5.7%	59	12.8





Methodology:

This study was conducted using High Definition Interactive Voice Response (HD-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 landline/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and landline only households.

The field dates for this survey are March 18-24, 2015. In total, a random sample of 4,311 Canadian adults aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-1.5 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 by **age, gender, region, and educational attainment** to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.