

MOST CANADIANS WANT OFFSHORE DRILLING SUSPENDED OR STOPPED

ANTI-DRILLING SENTIMENT LESS STRONG IN ALBERTA AND THE ATLANTIC REGION

[Ottawa – May 20, 2010] - In light of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, most Canadians want offshore drilling here in Canada to be suspended until the government can review the risks, or stopped altogether.

Respondents to an EKOS poll commissioned by the CBC program *Power and Politics* were asked to choose from four options: permanently stopping offshore drilling, suspending it pending a safety review, continuing it pending a safety review, or carrying on as normal.

Fewer than one-in-ten Canadians felt that offshore drilling should continue as normal in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico spill, though the number was higher in Alberta.

The most common response was that offshore drilling should be suspended for the moment. The second most common response was that it should continue until a safety review is completed.

In British Columbia nearly one-in-five respondents wanted permanent cessation of offshore drilling, which may reflect the particular concern that people there have for their coastline. But in Alberta, Canada's biggest oil producer, most people did not want a halt to offshore drilling, at least for now. The results from the Atlantic provinces were similar.

Interestingly, older Canadians and women tended to be more concerned than others about the dangers of offshore drilling.

There were also sharp partisan divides, with Conservative supporters much less inclined to suspend or stop drilling and NDP, BQ and Green supporters much more likely. Liberal supporters fitted in between at about the national average.

HIGHLIGHTS

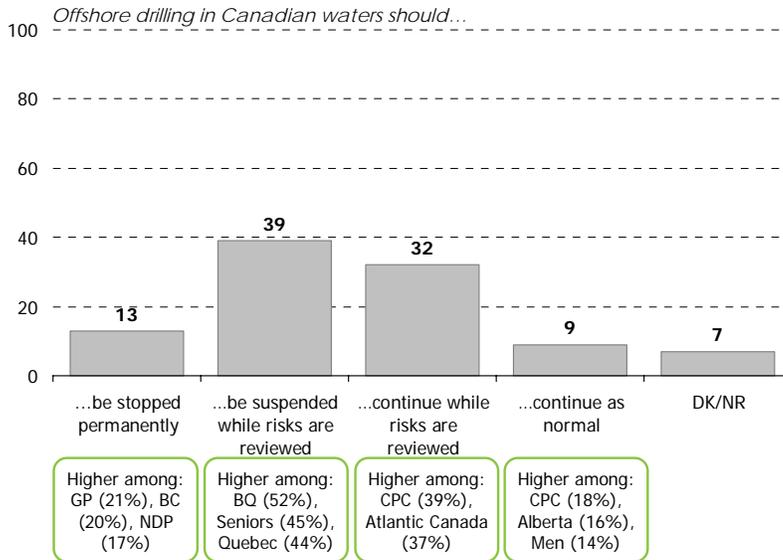
- **Preferred reaction to Gulf oil spill with regards to offshore drilling in Canadian waters:**
 - ☒ **13% should be stopped permanently**
 - ☒ **39% should be suspended while the risks are reviewed**
 - ☒ **32% should continue until it is determined whether there are serious risks of a similar spill here**
 - ☒ **9% should continue as normal**
 - ☒ **7% do not know / no response**

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

Top Line Results:

Preferred Canadian reaction to Gulf oil spill

Q. As you may be aware, there has recently been a large spill from an undersea oil well in the Gulf of Mexico. In light of this spill, which comes closer to your view as far as Canada is concerned? Offshore drilling in Canadian waters should 1) be stopped permanently; 2) be suspended until the government can review the risks; 3) continue until it is determined that there are serious risks of a similar spill here or 4) continue as normal?



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BASE: Canadians; May 13-18 (n=2,281)

Detailed Tables:

Preferred Reaction to Gulf Oil Spill with regards to Offshore Drilling in Canadian Waters

Q. As you may be aware, there has recently been a large spill from an undersea oil well in the Gulf of Mexico. In light of this spill, which comes closer to your view as far as Canada is concerned? Offshore drilling in Canadian Waters should...

	Be stopped permanently	Be suspended until the government can review the risks	Continue until it is determined whether there are serious risks of a similar spill here	Continue as normal	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	13%	39%	32%	9%	7%	2281	2.1
REGION							
British Columbia	20%	38%	23%	13%	7%	225	6.5
Alberta	12%	30%	36%	16%	7%	244	6.3
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	14%	44%	27%	7%	8%	174	7.4
Ontario	12%	37%	35%	9%	7%	779	3.5
Quebec	14%	44%	28%	6%	8%	648	3.9
Atlantic Canada	7%	40%	37%	12%	5%	211	6.8
GENDER							
Male	12%	35%	34%	14%	5%	1017	3.1
Female	14%	42%	30%	5%	9%	1264	2.8
AGE							
<25	14%	36%	32%	9%	8%	208	6.8
25-44	12%	35%	36%	10%	7%	683	3.8
45-64	12%	40%	32%	10%	6%	893	3.3
65+	16%	45%	24%	8%	7%	497	4.4
EDUCATION							
High school or less	14%	41%	28%	9%	9%	711	3.7
College or CEGEP	11%	41%	32%	9%	8%	749	3.6
University or higher	14%	36%	35%	10%	5%	821	3.4
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Conservative Party of Canada	7%	31%	39%	18%	6%	682	3.8
Liberal Party of Canada	12%	41%	35%	6%	5%	481	4.5
NDP	17%	44%	28%	6%	4%	288	5.8
Green Party	21%	42%	25%	6%	5%	211	6.8
Bloc Quebecois	13%	52%	24%	5%	5%	243	6.3
Undecided	26%	30%	25%	6%	12%	53	13.5

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 May 13 – May 18, 2010.¹ In total, a random sample of 2,281 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-2.1 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, as we do not survey on Saturday or Sunday.