![EKOS POLITICS]
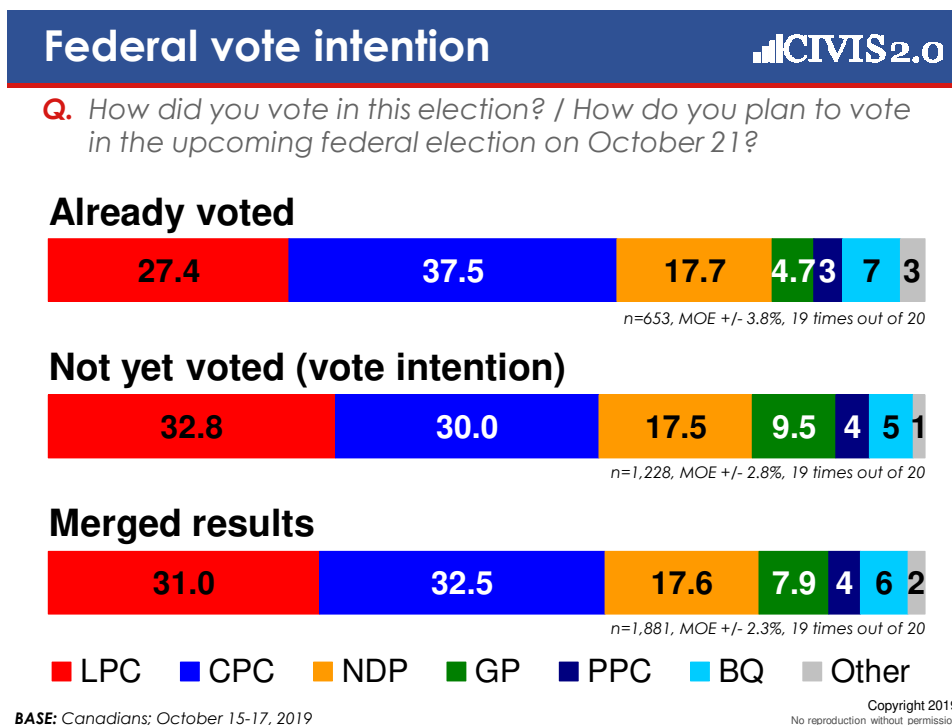
AND THE WINNER IS….WE STILL DON'T KNOW

[Ottawa – October 18, 2019] The 43rd federal election is lurching to the finish line and we still don't know who the winner(s) will be. The race is statistical tie, with the Conservatives holding the narrowest of leads over the Liberals (32.5 per cent versus 31.0 per cent). The rejuvenated NDP is now stalled at 17.6 points and the Greens having fallen back to 7.9 points. The People's Party is also fading and now sits at 3.6 per cent. In Quebec, the Bloc Québécois have had a renaissance, but that too appears to have stalled and they have fallen out of a tie and are now 10 points behind the Liberals in Quebec at 24 points.

Federal vote intention

CIVIS2.0

Q. *How did you vote in this election? / How do you plan to vote in the upcoming federal election on October 21?*

Already voted

27.4	37.5	17.7	4.7	3	7	3

n=653, MOE +/- 3.8%, 19 times out of 20

Not yet voted (vote intention)

32.8	30.0	17.5	9.5	4	5	1

n=1,228, MOE +/- 2.8%, 19 times out of 20

Merged results

31.0	32.5	17.6	7.9	4	6	2

n=1,881, MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

■ LPC ■ CPC ■ NDP ■ GP ■ PPC ■ BQ ■ Other

BASE: *Canadians; October 15-17, 2019*

A number of forces make the outcome of the election less than clear. First, the regional patterns: the Conservatives enjoy huge leads in Alberta and Saskatchewan; however, this overconcentration of support is inefficient in terms of seat outcomes. In particular, their deficit in Ontario (31 per cent versus 37 per cent for the Liberals) has major seat implications. The Ontario landscape may be complicated by a rising NDP, which now stands at 20 points in the province. In Quebec, the Conservatives are not really in the fray at 14 points. British Columbia is a confused mess of four parties with the Greens fading somewhat in the final weeks of the campaign. All in all, however, the regional patterns favour the Liberals in terms of seat counts.

This picture would be much gloomier for the Conservative Party if it weren't for their strong performance in the unusually large advance voter turnout where they have a 10-point advantage over the Liberals. Now, an important caveat is needed here: given the small sample sizes, we're not entirely convinced that the 10-point lead is accurate; the Conservatives certainly have a lead,

but the exact magnitude isn't clear. The size of the lead shrank in later part of the polling period (which should not happen given that the advance polls closed before the polling period), so the results might be susceptible to measurement and sampling errors. Nevertheless, the Conservatives have a large 'out of the block' lead with the advanced vote and turnout will therefore be critically important. The larger the turnout, the more the advance voting advantage is diminished. If the turnout resembles 2011, the Conservatives may well win. If it resembles 2015, they won't.

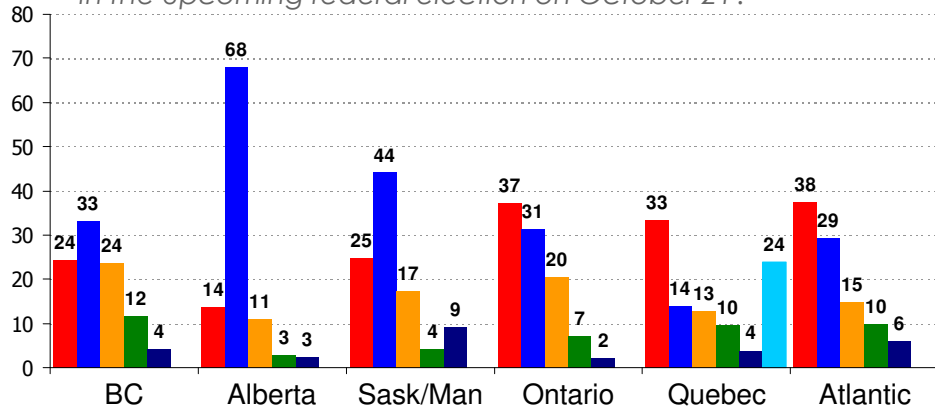## Points of stability and potential flux:

The Conservatives have little room to grow. The final movements in the campaign will most likely be the shifts across the boundaries of the Liberal and NDP constituencies, where the promiscuous progressive voters show ambivalence about which party to support. Indeed, we are registering very high levels of indecision, focused primarily among the centre-left portion of the spectrum. The final decisions of these voters will ultimately be linked to perception of the likely outcome of the election. It is odd for the Conservatives to be talking about a looming victory, as this may well increase both turnout and shifting back to the Liberals.
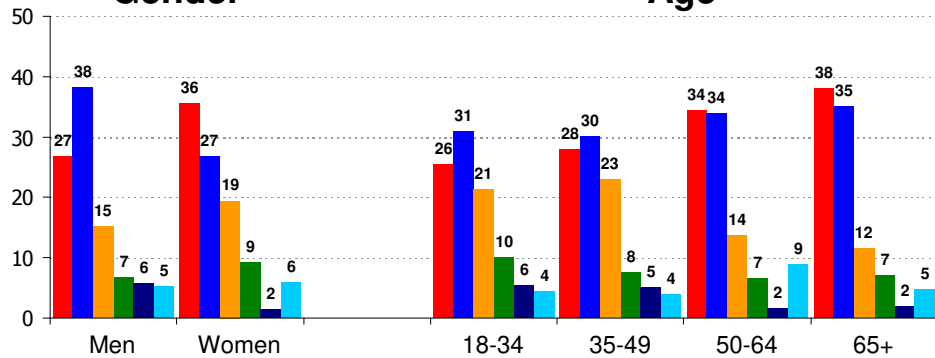
Bottom line:

Right now, the outcome of these factors makes the outcome of the election unclear. If we were forced to make a conjecture, we would guess at a Liberal minority outcome at this stage but that is uncertain. There are many ridings where the Conservatives have a slim plurality but will now win because of Liberal-NDP contests. We may well be waiting until the final vote tallies in British Columbia to see who will win on Monday.
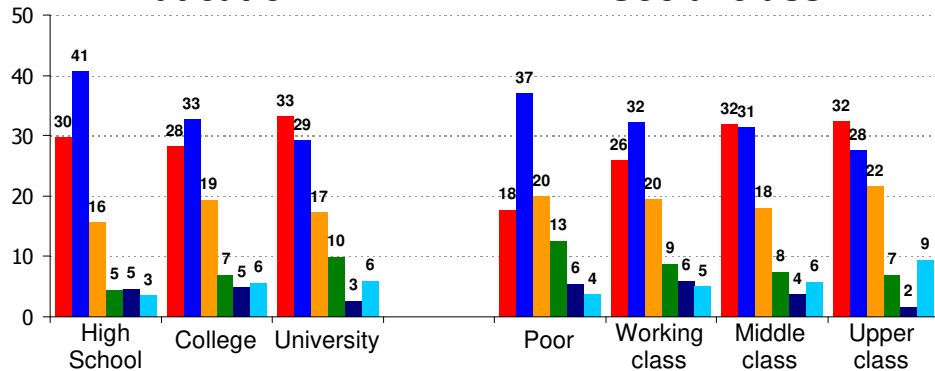
Vote intention by region/demos CIVIS2.0

Q. *How did you vote in this election? / How do you plan to vote in the upcoming federal election on October 21?*
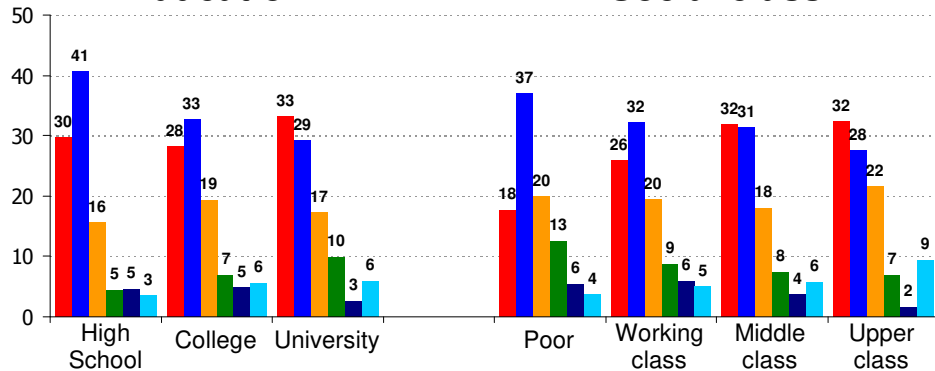

Region	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ
BC	24	33	24	12	4	
Alberta	14	68	11	3	3	
Sask/Man	25	44	17	4	9	
Ontario	37	31	20	7	2	
Quebec	33	14	13	10	4	24
Atlantic	38	29	15	10	6	

Gender

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ
Men	27	38	15	7	6	5
Women	36	27	19	9	2	6

Age

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ
18-34	26	31	21	10	6	4
35-49	28	30	23	8	5	4
50-64	34	34	14	7	1	9
65+	38	35	12	7	2	5

Education

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ
High School	30	41	16	5	5	3
College	28	33	19	7	5	6
University	33	29	17	10	3	6

Social class

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ
Poor	18	37	20	13	6	4
Working class	26	32	20	9	6	5
Middle class	32	31	18	8	4	6
Upper class	32	28	22	7	2	9

LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ	Other
31.0	32.5	17.6	7.9	4	6	2

■ LPC   ■ CPC   ■ NDP   ■ GP   ■ PPC   ■ BQ   ■ Other

BASE: *Canadians; October 15-17, 2019, n=1,881, MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20*

Detailed Results:

Voting Behaviour (valid responses only)

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 21, have you already voted either at an advance poll or by special ballot?
[If yes] How did you vote in this election?

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ	Other	Sample Size		Margin of Error (+/-)
								Weighted	Un-weighted	
NATIONALLY	**27.4%**	**37.4%**	**17.7%**	**4.7%**	**3.3%**	**6.5%**	**2.9%**	**486**	**519**	**4.3**
REGION										
British Columbia	19.5%	33.6%	26.5%	9.5%	6.4%	–	4.6%	96	109	9.4
Alberta	18.3%	71.7%	9.2%	0.8%	0.0%	–	0.0%	58	63	12.4
Sask./Man.*	24.7%	56.7%	13.3%	3.4%	1.9%	–	0.0%	29	40	15.5
Ontario	33.8%	37.8%	19.4%	4.2%	2.7%	–	2.0%	172	172	7.5
Quebec	26.1%	17.9%	14.5%	2.0%	4.5%	29.9%	5.1%	106	102	9.7
Atlantic Canada*	44.0%	29.8%	10.9%	12.1%	0.0%	–	3.2%	24	33	17.1
GENDER										
Male	25.6%	42.3%	15.8%	2.6%	5.8%	5.6%	2.2%	244	274	5.9
Female	29.9%	32.3%	18.8%	7.0%	0.8%	7.6%	3.7%	236	240	6.3
AGE										
<35	23.0%	28.6%	24.6%	5.8%	8.6%	6.3%	3.0%	114	35	16.6
35-49	16.8%	45.8%	21.2%	1.2%	5.1%	5.7%	4.3%	104	80	11.0
50-64	27.7%	39.6%	16.4%	5.8%	0.0%	8.0%	2.5%	145	159	7.8
65+	39.5%	36.0%	10.2%	5.5%	0.8%	5.8%	2.1%	120	242	6.3
EDUCATION										
High school or less	30.4%	44.2%	15.1%	2.5%	1.6%	4.9%	1.3%	84	93	10.2
College or CEGEP	21.8%	38.7%	19.9%	6.4%	4.3%	6.0%	2.9%	148	159	7.8
University or higher	30.0%	34.5%	17.4%	4.5%	3.4%	7.4%	2.8%	252	265	6.0
SOCIAL CLASS										
Poor	17.3%	23.3%	30.2%	8.8%	8.0%	6.1%	6.3%	17	22	20.9
Working class	23.2%	39.3%	23.5%	9.9%	0.0%	2.0%	2.1%	82	81	10.9
Middle class	28.4%	33.4%	16.9%	2.8%	4.5%	9.8%	4.2%	186	207	6.8
Upper class	29.6%	43.8%	18.9%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	24	26	19.2

Note that due to the small sample sizes, results for these regions should be interpreted with caution

Vote Intention (not yet voted, decided voters/leaning voters only)

Q. How do you plan to vote in the upcoming federal election on October 21?
*   [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?*

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ	Other	Sample Size		Margin of Error (+/-)
								Weighted	Un-weighted	
NATIONALLY	**32.8%**	**30.0%**	**17.5%**	**9.5%**	**3.8%**	**5.0%**	**1.4%**	**964**	**906**	**3.3**
REGION										
British Columbia	28.3%	32.8%	21.2%	13.6%	2.6%	–	1.5%	115	143	8.2
Alberta	11.4%	66.2%	12.0%	4.1%	3.8%	–	2.5%	106	127	8.7
Sask./Man.*	24.8%	38.4%	19.3%	4.7%	12.8%	–	0.0%	64	77	11.2
Ontario	38.7%	28.4%	20.8%	8.4%	2.0%	–	1.7%	391	319	5.5
Quebec	36.8%	12.2%	12.2%	13.4%	3.6%	21.1%	0.7%	226	173	7.5
Atlantic Canada*	34.9%	29.1%	16.4%	9.1%	8.5%	–	2.0%	61	67	12.0
GENDER										
Male	27.5%	36.0%	14.8%	8.9%	5.6%	5.0%	2.2%	473	443	4.7
Female	38.4%	24.1%	19.6%	10.3%	1.9%	5.0%	0.7%	481	453	4.6
AGE										
<35	26.5%	31.8%	20.2%	11.6%	4.3%	3.6%	2.0%	304	93	10.2
35-49	32.7%	23.3%	23.8%	10.3%	5.1%	3.1%	1.7%	241	180	7.3
50-64	38.4%	30.1%	12.0%	6.9%	2.7%	9.5%	0.3%	230	257	6.1
65+	37.0%	34.5%	12.4%	8.2%	2.7%	4.1%	1.1%	178	365	5.1
EDUCATION										
High school or less	29.4%	39.2%	16.0%	5.3%	5.8%	2.9%	1.4%	219	221	6.6
College or CEGEP	31.9%	29.3%	19.0%	7.3%	5.0%	5.4%	2.1%	264	243	6.3
University or higher	34.9%	26.4%	17.5%	12.7%	2.2%	5.3%	1.1%	477	438	4.7
SOCIAL CLASS										
Poor	17.7%	41.4%	16.6%	13.8%	4.6%	3.0%	3.0%	52	44	14.8
Working class	27.5%	28.0%	17.2%	8.0%	9.2%	6.6%	3.6%	145	132	8.5
Middle class	33.7%	30.3%	18.5%	10.1%	3.3%	3.6%	0.6%	346	326	5.4
Upper class	33.4%	21.7%	22.5%	9.4%	2.2%	10.1%	0.7%	68	53	13.5

Note that due to the small sample sizes, results for these regions should be interpreted with caution

National Federal Vote Intention (already voted/decided voters/leaning voters only)

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 21, have you already voted either at an advance poll or by special ballot?
  [If yes] How did you vote in this election?
  [If no] How do you plan to vote in the upcoming federal election on October 21?
  [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?

	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	PPC	BQ	Other	Sample Size		Margin of Error (+/-)
								Weighted	Un-weighted	
NATIONALLY	**31.0%**	**32.5%**	**17.6%**	**7.9%**	**3.6%**	**5.5%**	**1.9%**	**1450**	**1425**	**2.6**
REGION										
British Columbia	24.3%	33.2%	23.6%	11.7%	4.3%	–	2.9%	211	252	6.2
Alberta	13.8%	68.1%	11.0%	2.9%	2.5%	–	1.6%	164	190	7.1
Sask./Man.*	24.8%	44.2%	17.4%	4.3%	9.3%	–	0.0%	94	117	9.1
Ontario	37.2%	31.3%	20.4%	7.1%	2.2%	–	1.8%	564	491	4.4
Quebec	33.4%	14.0%	12.9%	9.7%	3.9%	23.9%	2.1%	332	275	5.9
Atlantic Canada*	37.5%	29.3%	14.8%	10.0%	6.1%	–	2.3%	85	100	9.8
GENDER										
Male	26.8%	38.1%	15.2%	6.8%	5.7%	5.2%	2.2%	718	717	3.7
Female	35.6%	26.8%	19.4%	9.2%	1.5%	5.9%	1.7%	717	693	3.7
AGE										
<35	25.5%	30.9%	21.4%	10.1%	5.5%	4.4%	2.3%	418	128	8.7
35-49	27.9%	30.1%	23.0%	7.6%	5.1%	3.9%	2.5%	345	260	6.1
50-64	34.3%	33.8%	13.7%	6.5%	1.7%	8.9%	1.2%	375	416	4.8
65+	38.0%	35.1%	11.5%	7.1%	1.9%	4.8%	1.5%	297	607	4.0
EDUCATION										
High school or less	29.7%	40.6%	15.7%	4.5%	4.6%	3.4%	1.4%	303	314	5.5
College or CEGEP	28.2%	32.7%	19.3%	7.0%	4.8%	5.6%	2.4%	412	402	4.9
University or higher	33.2%	29.2%	17.4%	9.9%	2.6%	6.0%	1.7%	729	703	3.7
SOCIAL CLASS										
Poor	17.6%	36.9%	20.0%	12.6%	5.5%	3.7%	3.8%	69	66	12.1
Working class	25.9%	32.1%	19.5%	8.7%	5.9%	4.9%	3.0%	228	213	6.7
Middle class	31.8%	31.4%	18.0%	7.5%	3.7%	5.8%	1.8%	532	533	4.2
Upper class	32.4%	27.5%	21.6%	7.0%	1.6%	9.4%	0.5%	93	79	11.0

*Note that due to the small sample sizes, results for these regions should be interpreted with caution

Methodology:

This study involved a blended sample collected using two separate methodologies: Computer Assisted Live Interviews (CATI) and EKOS' proprietary 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 October 15-17, 2019. In total, a random sample of 1,881 Canadian adults aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/- 2.3 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, and region** to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.