

ELECTION ANYONE?

SPEAKER'S RULING MAY NOT TEMPT ANY PARTY TO FORCE AN ELECTION

[Ottawa – April 29, 2010] - There is again talk of a parliamentary showdown, following this week's ruling by the Speaker of the House of Commons on the release of documents relating to the Afghan detainees. But the last poll taken before the ruling suggests there are reasons for both the two major parties to be wary of any brinkmanship that might force an election.

While the Conservatives are in first place, they continue to track well below their performance in the last election with less than a third of Canadians saying they would vote for them if an election were held. That suggests that a majority would be difficult to achieve, a reduced minority would be quite possible, and even a defeat would be conceivable.

As for the Liberals, they continue to be mired below the 30% threshold as they were in the last election.

The news for the two major party leaders is hardly more encouraging: Stephen Harper has a decisively negative job-approval rating; Michael Ignatieff's negative rating is even worse.

If Jack Layton seems somewhat feistier on the possibility of an election over the issue of the detainee documents that the Liberals do, it may be in part because he, alone among the three national party leaders, has a positive job-approval rating, and strongly so. In terms of potential gains in an election, the NDP is the second-choice for just as many voters as the

Liberals are, meaning his party has proportionately much more upside potential. (The Tories trail both the national opposition parties as a second choice, and are struggling to compete with the Greens in this category.)

It's a measure of Canadians' lack of enthusiasm for their political options that fewer of them are

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National federal vote intention:**
 - ☒ 31.9% CPC
 - ☒ 26.6% LPC
 - ☒ 17.6% NDP
 - ☒ 10.9% Green
 - ☒ 9.7% BQ
 - ☒ 3.3% other

- **Direction of government:**
 - ☒ 43.8% wrong direction
 - ☒ 43.2% right direction
 - ☒ 13.0% don't know/no response

- **Approval rating – Harper:**
 - ☒ 33% approve
 - ☒ 49% disapprove
 - ☒ 18% do not know/no response

- **Approval rating – Ignatieff:**
 - ☒ 20% approve
 - ☒ 51% disapprove
 - ☒ 29% do not know/no response

- **Approval rating – Layton:**
 - ☒ 43% approve
 - ☒ 26% disapprove
 - ☒ 31% do not know/no response

- **Approval rating – Obama:**
 - ☒ 70% approve
 - ☒ 12% disapprove
 - ☒ 18% do not know/no response

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

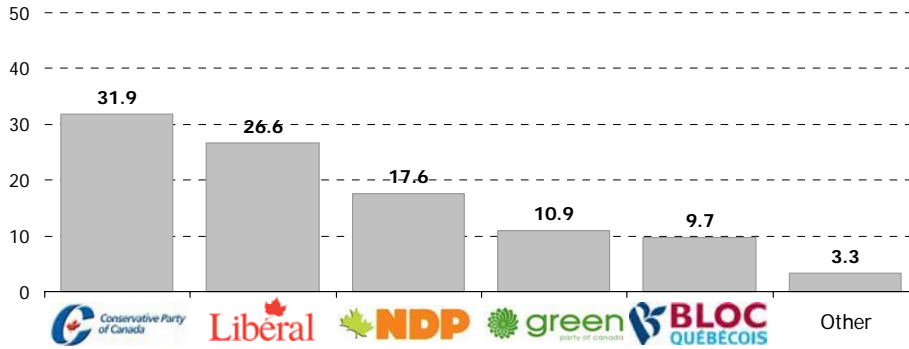
willing to express a second choice among the parties than in the past.

“In this fragmented political landscape, Canadians have no clear political champion at the moment,” said EKOS President Frank Graves. “If there is a positive side to this, it may be to encourage the major parties to work out a compromise on the issue of the detainee documents, as the Speaker has encouraged them to do.”

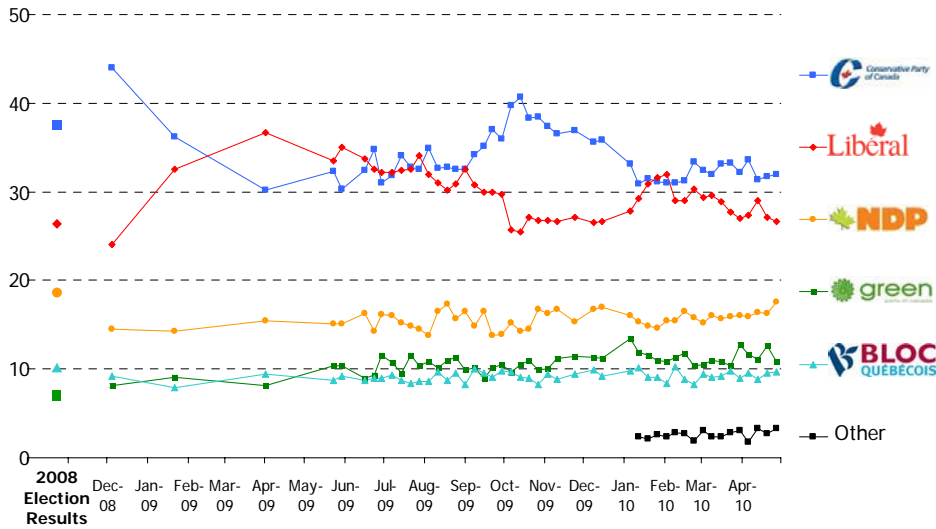
Top Line Results:

Federal vote intention

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



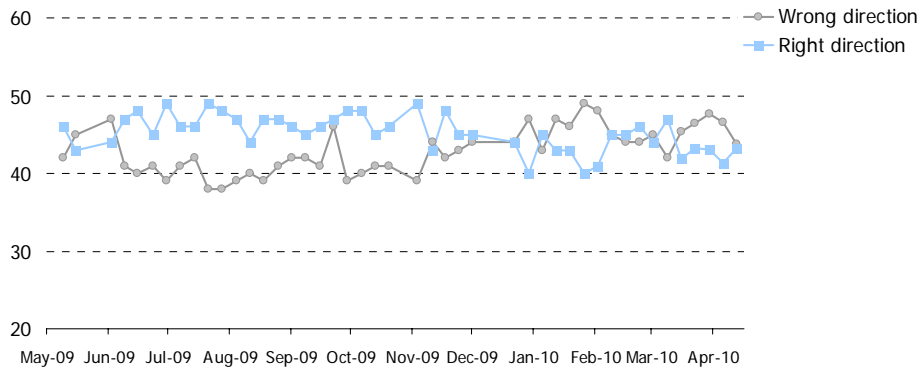
Weekly tracking of federal vote intention



Note: The data on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 13.9% of Canadians are undecided/ineligible to vote.

Direction of government

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

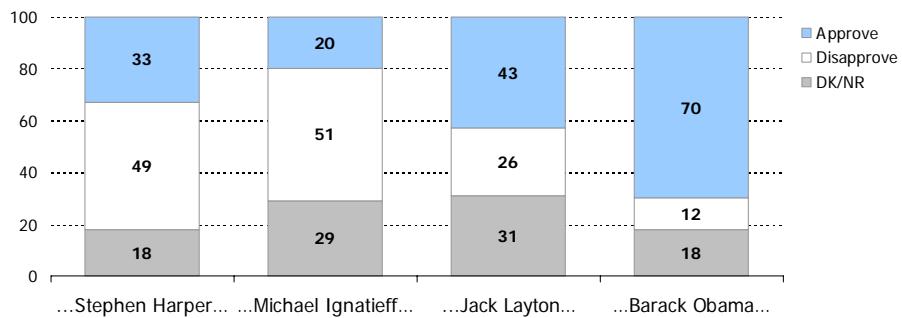


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BASE: Canadians; most recent data point April 21-27 (n=half sample)

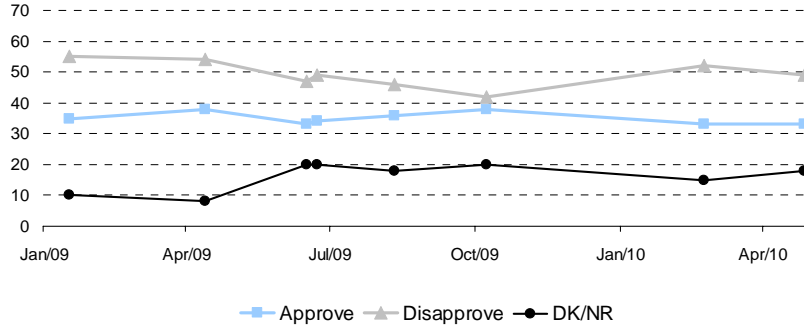
Job approval ratings

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way ... is handling his job?

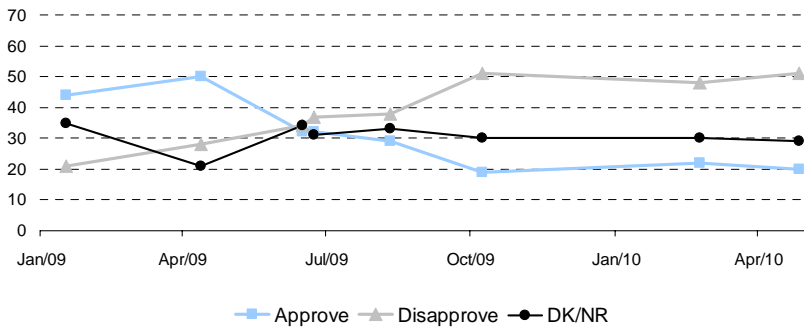


BASE: Canadians; April 21-27 (n=2303)

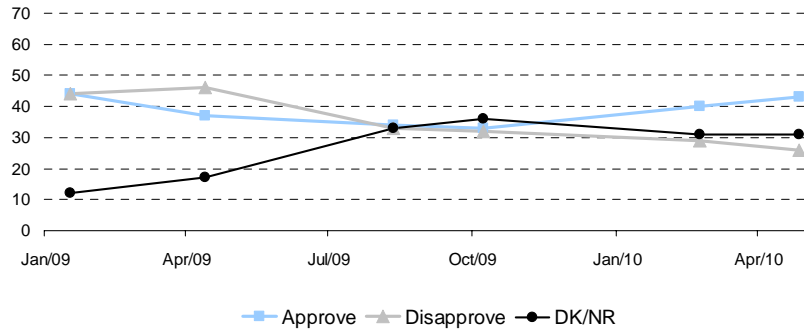
Tracking job approval ratings for Stephen Harper



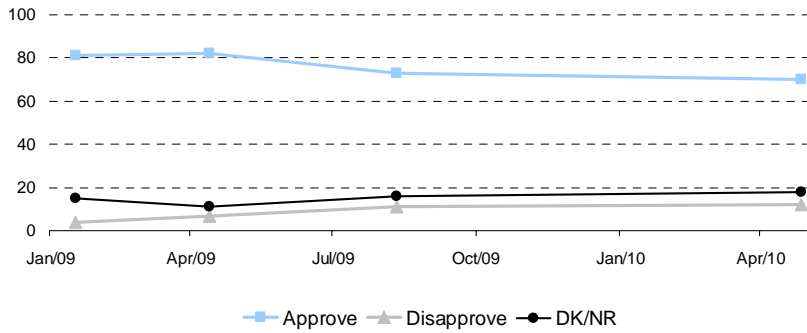
Tracking job approval ratings for Michael Ignatieff



Tracking job approval ratings for Jack Layton








Tracking job approval ratings for Barack Obama



Second choice

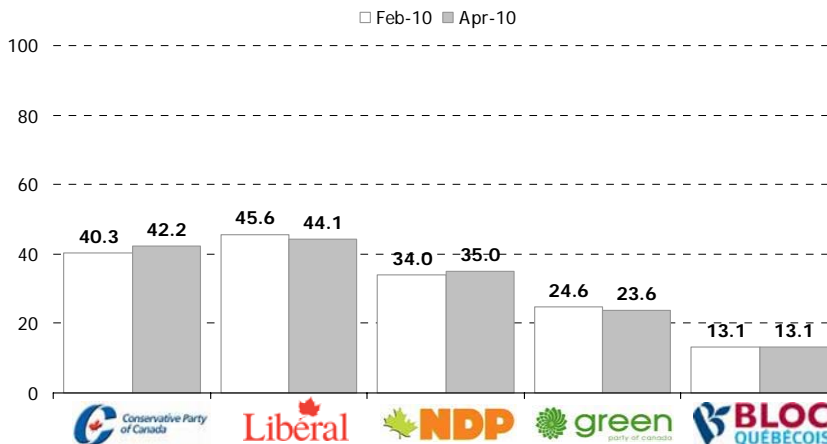
Q. Which party would be your second choice?

SECOND CHOICE	Second Choice (overall)	FIRST CHOICE					
		CPC	LPC	NDP	GP	BQ	Other
	10.2	--	20.2	10.9	13.4	11.8	12.6
	17.5	25.3	--	35.3	23.5	12.0	11.5
	17.4	12.9	36.3	--	19.9	23.1	8.0
	12.7	12.5	13.4	21.2	--	14.1	23.4
	3.4	1.6	3.5	6.7	7.3	--	1.2
Other	2.5	3.7	1.8	1.5	2.7	1.4	--
No second choice	36.3	44.0	24.8	24.4	33.1	37.6	43.3






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BASE: Eligible voters; April 21-27 (n=2254)

Vote intention ceiling (first and second choice combined)







Detailed Tables:

<u>National Federal Vote Intention</u>								
<i>Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?</i>								
						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	31.9%	26.6%	17.6%	10.9%	9.7%	3.3%	1988	2.2
REGION								
British Columbia	28.4%	22.7%	28.6%	16.1%	0.0%	4.1%	287	5.8
Alberta	54.5%	15.1%	13.5%	10.6%	0.0%	6.4%	203	6.9
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	38.2%	27.5%	23.8%	9.0%	0.0%	1.6%	152	8.0
Ontario	36.0%	34.2%	17.7%	9.3%	0.0%	2.9%	673	3.8
Quebec	16.0%	19.3%	12.6%	10.4%	38.5%	3.1%	496	4.4
Atlantic Canada	34.9%	34.2%	15.5%	13.5%	0.0%	2.0%	177	7.4
GENDER								
Male	34.6%	24.6%	17.2%	11.3%	8.9%	3.5%	1002	3.1
Female	29.2%	28.7%	18.0%	10.5%	10.5%	3.1%	986	3.1
AGE								
<25	24.6%	24.0%	15.1%	18.9%	13.5%	3.9%	154	7.9
25-44	29.4%	22.7%	19.7%	12.7%	11.3%	4.2%	622	3.9
45-64	30.9%	29.2%	18.0%	9.4%	9.7%	2.8%	760	3.6
65+	42.9%	30.8%	14.4%	5.4%	4.4%	2.2%	452	4.6
EDUCATION								
High school or less	36.9%	21.8%	14.7%	11.7%	11.4%	3.5%	537	4.2
College or CEGEP	34.3%	21.1%	18.9%	10.6%	11.2%	3.8%	640	3.9
University or higher	26.7%	34.3%	18.6%	10.5%	7.3%	2.7%	811	3.4
METROPOLITAN CANADA								
Vancouver	26.8%	27.5%	32.5%	9.2%	0.0%	3.9%	105	9.6
Calgary	48.6%	17.3%	16.2%	9.8%	0.0%	8.2%	62	12.5
Toronto	35.3%	40.2%	17.0%	5.3%	0.0%	2.1%	190	7.1
Ottawa	36.7%	43.1%	15.5%	4.6%	0.0%	0.0%	97	10.0
Montreal	12.2%	23.2%	19.2%	8.8%	36.0%	0.6%	202	6.9





Federal Vote Intention – British Columbia

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	28.4%	22.7%	28.6%	16.1%	4.1%	287	5.8
GENDER							
Male	32.9%	21.8%	25.3%	16.7%	3.4%	149	8.0
Female	23.1%	23.7%	32.8%	16.2%	4.3%	138	8.3
AGE							
<25	23.5%	18.1%	32.1%	15.5%	10.8%	26	19.2
25-44	22.4%	23.0%	31.3%	21.7%	1.6%	75	11.3
45-64	28.5%	22.1%	30.6%	14.5%	4.3%	116	9.1
65+	39.3%	26.4%	20.2%	11.4%	2.9%	70	11.7
EDUCATION							
High school or less	32.7%	15.6%	38.7%	11.2%	1.8%	60	12.7
College or CEGEP	30.9%	17.0%	25.4%	20.5%	6.1%	95	10.1
University or higher	23.7%	29.7%	27.4%	15.9%	3.2%	132	8.5





Federal Vote Intention – Alberta

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	54.5%	15.1%	13.5%	10.6%	6.4%	203	6.9
GENDER							
Male	59.5%	12.9%	12.2%	10.0%	5.4%	106	9.5
Female	50.0%	16.7%	15.4%	10.5%	7.4%	97	10.0
AGE							
<25	43.8%	24.2%	5.4%	20.8%	5.7%	19	22.5
25-44	56.4%	12.1%	11.7%	12.6%	7.2%	66	12.1
45-64	53.9%	16.8%	14.1%	8.4%	6.8%	73	11.5
65+	59.5%	11.0%	21.5%	3.7%	4.2%	45	14.6
EDUCATION							
High school or less	62.9%	3.4%	8.0%	14.9%	10.9%	56	13.1
College or CEGEP	65.5%	9.8%	13.1%	6.9%	4.6%	64	12.3
University or higher	41.1%	26.4%	18.3%	9.7%	4.6%	83	10.8





Federal Vote Intention – Saskatchewan/Manitoba

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	38.2%	27.5%	23.8%	9.0%	1.6%	152	8.0
GENDER							
Male	40.1%	20.7%	20.8%	15.6%	2.7%	85	10.6
Female	34.5%	33.3%	26.3%	4.8%	1.1%	67	12.0
AGE							
<25	0.0%	57.1%	22.6%	20.3%	0.0%	4	49.0
25-44	32.7%	24.6%	30.9%	11.7%	0.0%	44	14.8
45-64	36.3%	28.3%	20.5%	11.5%	3.4%	69	11.8
65+	71.8%	9.0%	15.3%	0.0%	3.9%	35	16.6
EDUCATION							
High school or less	45.1%	21.5%	18.3%	11.3%	3.7%	50	13.9
College or CEGEP	30.8%	31.3%	25.7%	12.2%	0.0%	44	14.8
University or higher	36.2%	27.5%	26.1%	8.1%	2.0%	58	12.9






Federal Vote Intention – Ontario

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	36.0%	34.2%	17.7%	9.3%	2.9%	673	3.8
GENDER							
Male	35.9%	30.6%	18.3%	11.9%	3.3%	353	5.2
Female	35.5%	37.7%	17.5%	6.8%	2.5%	320	5.5
AGE							
<25	35.5%	34.6%	18.3%	11.7%	0.0%	51	13.7
25-44	35.4%	25.7%	19.4%	13.5%	6.1%	215	6.7
45-64	31.3%	40.3%	20.0%	7.0%	1.4%	243	6.3
65+	44.7%	38.8%	10.8%	4.2%	1.5%	164	7.7
EDUCATION							
High school or less	40.5%	30.6%	14.1%	12.0%	2.8%	162	7.7
College or CEGEP	39.9%	23.5%	22.0%	10.4%	4.2%	216	6.7
University or higher	29.8%	44.4%	16.8%	7.0%	2.0%	295	5.7





Federal Vote Intention – Quebec

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

						Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	16.0%	19.3%	12.6%	10.4%	38.5%	3.1%	496	4.4
GENDER								
Male	20.8%	17.7%	12.7%	7.3%	37.7%	3.9%	229	6.5
Female	12.7%	22.6%	12.2%	12.3%	37.8%	2.5%	267	6.0
AGE								
<25	11.4%	11.2%	9.3%	24.1%	40.4%	3.5%	44	14.8
25-44	15.9%	16.2%	15.3%	7.8%	41.7%	3.1%	170	7.5
45-64	16.6%	19.7%	11.0%	8.7%	40.3%	3.7%	187	7.2
65+	21.7%	34.1%	11.9%	6.9%	23.5%	1.9%	95	10.1
EDUCATION								
High school or less	22.6%	19.4%	8.5%	8.4%	38.2%	2.8%	156	7.9
College or CEGEP	15.0%	20.4%	13.0%	6.7%	42.8%	2.1%	159	7.8
University or higher	12.9%	20.6%	15.5%	13.9%	32.6%	4.4%	181	7.3

Federal Vote Intention – Atlantic Canada

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

					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	34.9%	34.2%	15.5%	13.5%	2.0%	177	7.4
GENDER							
Male	36.2%	34.5%	15.6%	11.4%	2.4%	80	11.0
Female	31.5%	33.8%	16.0%	16.7%	2.1%	97	10.0
AGE							
<25	22.0%	18.3%	8.8%	39.7%	11.2%	10	31.0
25-44	24.2%	42.1%	19.3%	12.6%	1.7%	52	13.6
45-64	42.5%	32.6%	12.2%	12.7%	0.0%	72	11.6
65+	43.7%	30.6%	19.4%	4.3%	2.1%	43	14.9
EDUCATION							
High school or less	36.6%	29.7%	14.8%	18.9%	0.0%	53	13.5
College or CEGEP	33.2%	29.3%	19.7%	11.0%	6.8%	62	12.5
University or higher	32.2%	42.0%	13.1%	12.7%	0.0%	62	12.5






Direction of Government

Q. 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 Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	43.2%	43.8%	13.0%	1172	2.9
REGION					
British Columbia	38.7%	46.5%	14.8%	178	7.4
Alberta	64.7%	25.6%	9.8%	113	9.2
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	54.0%	32.3%	13.6%	88	10.5
Ontario	46.1%	39.2%	14.7%	400	4.9
Quebec	28.0%	62.4%	9.6%	295	5.7
Atlantic Canada	51.3%	31.9%	16.8%	98	9.9
GENDER					
Male	45.5%	43.6%	10.9%	567	4.1
Female	41.1%	43.9%	15.0%	605	4.0
AGE					
<25	40.7%	47.0%	12.3%	85	10.6
25-44	41.9%	46.5%	11.6%	388	5.0
45-64	41.7%	45.2%	13.1%	433	4.7
65+	50.0%	33.7%	16.3%	266	6.0
EDUCATION					
High school or less	42.8%	41.6%	15.5%	344	5.3
College or CEGEP	47.7%	41.7%	10.6%	378	5.0
University or higher	39.6%	47.1%	13.3%	450	4.6
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	78.4%	13.8%	7.8%	333	5.4
Liberal Party of Canada	33.2%	54.0%	12.8%	275	5.9
NDP	33.4%	52.7%	13.9%	173	7.5
Green Party	25.2%	62.4%	12.4%	100	9.8
Bloc Quebecois	17.5%	76.8%	5.7%	101	9.8
Undecided	26.4%	51.9%	21.7%	35	16.6

Second choice

Q. Talking again in terms of a federal election, which party would be your second choice?

						Other	No 2 nd choice	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	10%	18%	17%	13%	3%	3%	36%	2254	2.1
REGION									
British Columbia	13%	19%	17%	16%	0%	3%	32%	328	5.4
Alberta	10%	16%	13%	16%	0%	5%	40%	229	6.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	8%	23%	16%	10%	0%	1%	42%	173	7.5
Ontario	10%	19%	18%	14%	0%	3%	37%	757	3.6
Quebec	10%	12%	20%	9%	14%	2%	33%	554	4.2
Atlantic Canada	11%	21%	16%	10%	0%	1%	41%	213	6.7
GENDER									
Male	11%	18%	17%	14%	3%	3%	34%	1103	3.0
Female	9%	17%	18%	11%	4%	2%	39%	1151	2.9
AGE									
<25	9%	22%	20%	15%	4%	5%	26%	171	7.5
25-44	10%	19%	14%	13%	3%	3%	37%	722	3.7
45-64	12%	16%	19%	12%	4%	2%	35%	868	3.3
65+	7%	16%	20%	11%	2%	2%	43%	493	4.4
EDUCATION									
High school or less	10%	14%	17%	11%	4%	2%	41%	625	3.9
College or CEGEP	10%	18%	13%	13%	3%	4%	39%	756	3.6
University or higher	10%	20%	22%	13%	3%	2%	30%	873	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION									
Conservative Party of Canada	0%	25%	13%	12%	2%	4%	44%	654	3.8
Liberal Party of Canada	20%	0%	36%	13%	4%	2%	25%	532	4.3
NDP	11%	35%	0%	21%	7%	1%	24%	351	5.2
Green Party	13%	24%	20%	0%	7%	3%	33%	205	6.8
Bloc Quebecois	12%	12%	23%	14%	0%	1%	38%	186	7.2
Undecided	13%	11%	8%	23%	1%	0%	43%	60	12.7

Job approval ratings – Stephen Harper

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Stephen Harper, Prime Minister and leader of Conservative Party of Canada is handling his job?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	33%	49%	18%	2303	2.0
REGION					
British Columbia	32%	51%	17%	337	5.3
Alberta	52%	29%	19%	235	6.4
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	39%	47%	14%	175	7.4
Ontario	35%	50%	15%	774	3.5
Quebec	23%	54%	23%	568	4.1
Atlantic Canada	29%	47%	24%	214	6.7
GENDER					
Male	39%	49%	12%	1125	2.9
Female	28%	48%	24%	1178	2.9
AGE					
<25	30%	51%	19%	189	7.1
25-44	31%	49%	20%	738	3.6
45-64	32%	52%	16%	875	3.3
65+	42%	41%	17%	501	4.4
EDUCATION					
High school or less	36%	41%	22%	646	3.9
College or CEGEP	33%	45%	21%	775	3.5
University or higher	31%	57%	12%	882	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	79%	9%	12%	654	3.8
Liberal Party of Canada	16%	71%	13%	532	4.3
NDP	14%	72%	14%	351	5.2
Green Party	13%	70%	17%	205	6.8
Bloc Quebecois	17%	65%	18%	186	7.2
Undecided	14%	63%	22%	60	12.7

Job approval ratings – Michael Ignatieff

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Michael Ignatieff, leader of the Official Opposition and leader of the Liberal Party of Canada is handling his job?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	20%	51%	29%	2303	2.0
REGION					
British Columbia	22%	48%	29%	337	5.3
Alberta	16%	56%	28%	235	6.4
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	21%	57%	22%	175	7.4
Ontario	21%	52%	27%	774	3.5
Quebec	18%	47%	35%	568	4.1
Atlantic Canada	25%	46%	28%	214	6.7
GENDER					
Male	23%	57%	20%	1125	2.9
Female	18%	45%	37%	1178	2.9
AGE					
<25	23%	45%	32%	189	7.1
25-44	21%	47%	32%	738	3.6
45-64	19%	55%	26%	875	3.3
65+	20%	53%	26%	501	4.4
EDUCATION					
High school or less	18%	49%	33%	646	3.9
College or CEGEP	17%	52%	31%	775	3.5
University or higher	25%	51%	24%	882	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	9%	72%	19%	654	3.8
Liberal Party of Canada	45%	30%	25%	532	4.3
NDP	20%	50%	30%	351	5.2
Green Party	15%	56%	29%	205	6.8
Bloc Quebecois	14%	57%	29%	186	7.2
Undecided	15%	51%	34%	60	12.7

Job approval ratings – Jack Layton

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada is handling his job?

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	43%	26%	31%	2303	2.0
REGION					
British Columbia	43%	29%	28%	337	5.3
Alberta	33%	34%	33%	235	6.4
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	42%	36%	22%	175	7.4
Ontario	42%	29%	29%	774	3.5
Quebec	50%	14%	36%	568	4.1
Atlantic Canada	37%	28%	35%	214	6.7
GENDER					
Male	49%	29%	21%	1125	2.9
Female	37%	23%	39%	1178	2.9
AGE					
<25	44%	21%	34%	189	7.1
25-44	43%	24%	34%	738	3.6
45-64	44%	28%	28%	875	3.3
65+	40%	31%	29%	501	4.4
EDUCATION					
High school or less	35%	27%	38%	646	3.9
College or CEGEP	41%	28%	31%	775	3.5
University or higher	49%	24%	27%	882	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	31%	41%	28%	654	3.8
Liberal Party of Canada	52%	24%	25%	532	4.3
NDP	69%	11%	20%	351	5.2
Green Party	41%	27%	32%	205	6.8
Bloc Quebecois	49%	16%	34%	186	7.2
Undecided	35%	33%	32%	60	12.7

Job approval ratings – Barack Obama					
<i>Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama, President of the United States, is handling his job?</i>					
	Approve	Disapprove	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	70%	12%	17%	2303	2.0
REGION					
British Columbia	71%	12%	17%	337	5.3
Alberta	60%	19%	21%	235	6.4
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	72%	11%	17%	175	7.4
Ontario	66%	14%	20%	774	3.5
Quebec	79%	7%	13%	568	4.1
Atlantic Canada	70%	14%	17%	214	6.7
GENDER					
Male	69%	15%	17%	1125	2.9
Female	71%	10%	19%	1178	2.9
AGE					
<25	68%	18%	13%	189	7.1
25-44	68%	13%	19%	738	3.6
45-64	71%	10%	18%	875	3.3
65+	71%	11%	18%	501	4.4
EDUCATION					
High school or less	69%	11%	20%	646	3.9
College or CEGEP	67%	13%	20%	775	3.5
University or higher	73%	13%	14%	882	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION					
Conservative Party of Canada	59%	22%	19%	654	3.8
Liberal Party of Canada	79%	8%	13%	532	4.3
NDP	78%	7%	15%	351	5.2
Green Party	77%	8%	15%	205	6.8
Bloc Quebecois	83%	9%	8%	186	7.2
Undecided	54%	33%	14%	60	12.7

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 April 21 – April 27, 2010.¹ In total, a random sample of 2,303 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 1,988 decided voters). The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-2.0 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.