

## **DECISIVE OPPOSITION TO CANADA'S AFGHANISTAN**

### **MISSION**

*LIBERALS AND TORIES STUCK IN DEAD HEAT, WATCHED BY A MAINLY INDIFFERENT PUBLIC*

[Ottawa – July 16, 2009] – Canadians have turned decisively against Canada's participation in the military mission in Afghanistan, according to the latest weekly poll conducted by EKOS Research Associates exclusively for release on CBC.ca.

"We have been polling on this question since the mission began," said EKOS President Frank Graves. "The public outlook on Afghanistan has undergone a steady and radical transformation. From overwhelming public support at the outset of the mission we have seen an inexorable reversal to overwhelming public opposition. Opposition has grown from a trivial mid-teen level to nearly well over 50 percent. Support has collapsed from more than 2 in 3 at the outset to just 1 in 3 now. And none of this is an ephemeral, excited response to news headlines; it has been a steady and gradual shift in public judgment of the mission."

In Quebec, where support for the mission has never been strong, it is now only barely above single digits. In this poll, opponents outnumber supporters in every region except Manitoba/Saskatchewan, where the sample size is too small to be conclusive.

"Nonetheless, there is little reason to suspect that the Afghanistan mission is an especially heavy load on the Conservative government, since it has already agreed with the opposition Liberals to bring the mission to a close in 2011 and the debate has largely fallen out of the media discourse," said Graves.

Party support remains in a dead heat between the two major parties, with neither able to break out and take a clear lead. This week, the Conservatives are narrowly ahead nationally, though they continue to trail somewhat in the largest battleground province, Ontario, and are well behind the Liberals and Bloc Québécois in Quebec.

"Somewhat surprisingly, given the state of the economy, Canadians seem relatively content with the direction of the country and of the government right now," said Graves. "Equally significant, the current crop of parties and leaders leave them cold."

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **National federal vote intention:**
  - **34.1% CPC**
  - **32.4% LPC**
  - **15.2% NDP**
  - **9.6% Green**
  - **8.7% BQ**
  
- **Mission in Afghanistan:**
  - **34% support**
  - **54% oppose**
  - **12% neither**

*Please note that the methodology and detailed tables of these and other results discussed in this release are provided at the end of this document.*

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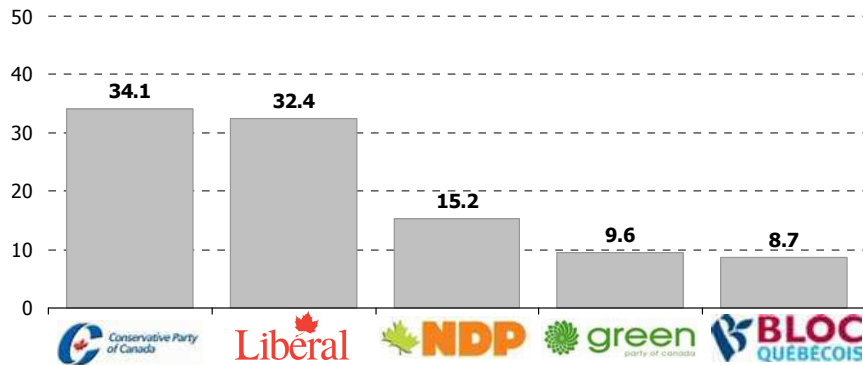
Only in Quebec does a majority now say that the government is going in the wrong direction. Moreover, among almost every other demographic group – young and old, those with higher education and those without, men and women – a plurality now says that the government is going in the right direction. Even among Liberal supporters, the percentage saying that the government is headed in the wrong direction only narrowly outnumbers those who say it is going in the right direction.

“It is not that Canadians lack significant differences of interests or values,” Graves said. “Not at all. However, they do seem to feel that none of the parties provides them with a conduit to express those differences with enthusiasm and conviction. Until Canadians start seeing themselves reflected more vibrantly in their political leadership, we are likely to continue to see an essentially frozen political landscape, capturing the attention of older, well-educated, economically-secure males, while the rest of the public looks on indifferently.”

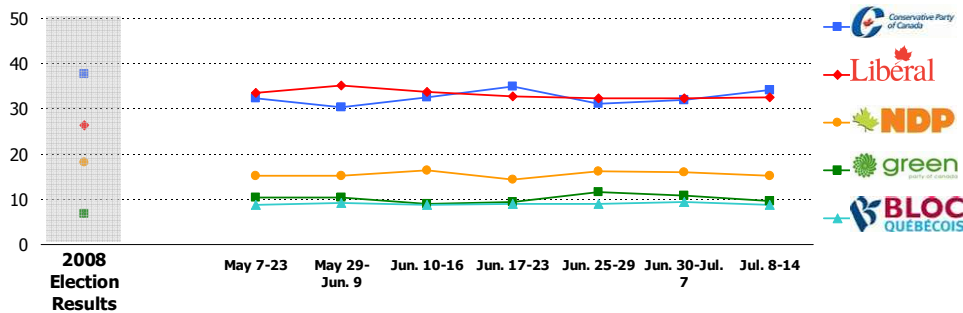
## Top Line Results:

### Federal vote intention

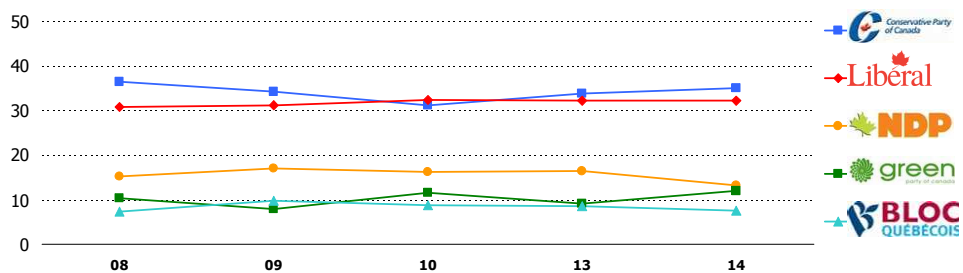
Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



### Weekly tracking of federal vote intention

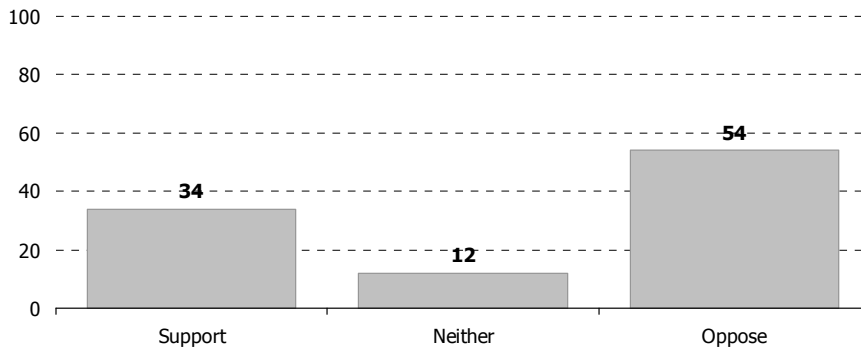


### Daily tracking of federal vote intention (July 8-14)

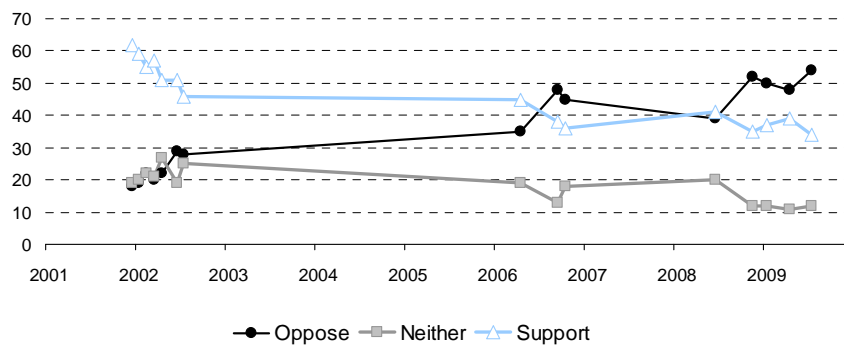


## Mission in Afghanistan

Q. Do you support or oppose Canadian military participation in Afghanistan?

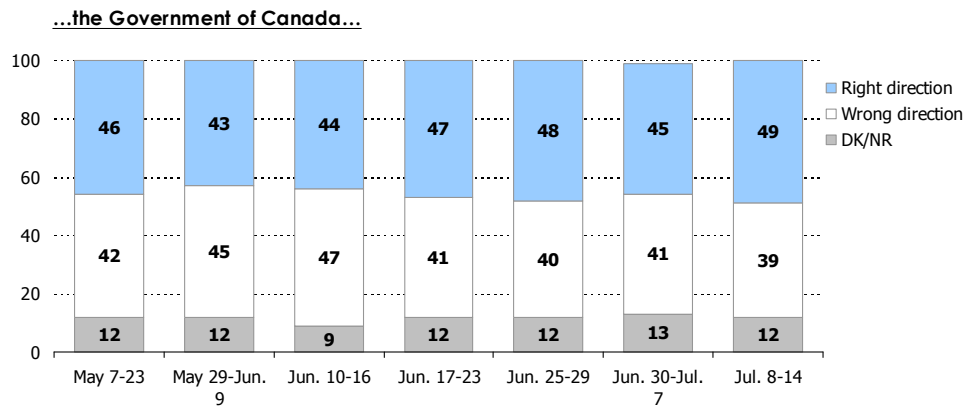
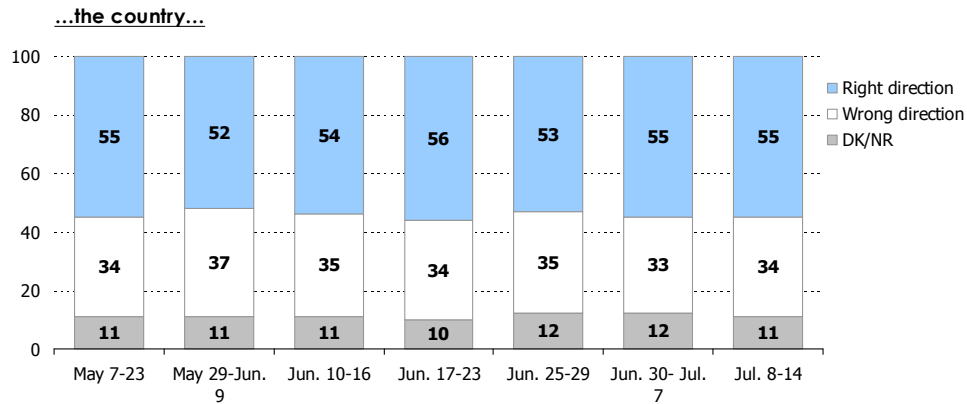


Tracking support for the Mission in Afghanistan (2001-2009)








## Direction of country / government

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







## Detailed Tables:

<b>National Federal Vote Intention<sup>1</sup></b>							
<i>Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?</i>							
						Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>2309</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>REGION</b>							
British Columbia	40%	29%	18%	13%	0%	295	5.7
Alberta	56%	24%	10%	10%	0%	199	7.0
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	51%	19%	19%	11%	0%	133	8.5
Ontario	36%	39%	15%	10%	0%	868	3.3
Quebec	18%	29%	11%	8%	34%	642	3.9
Atlantic Canada	27%	41%	26%	6%	0%	172	7.5
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	36%	32%	14%	8%	10%	1163	2.9
Female	32%	33%	17%	11%	8%	1146	2.9
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	22%	25%	21%	18%	13%	244	6.3
25-44	31%	32%	17%	10%	10%	805	3.5
45-64	36%	35%	14%	7%	8%	893	3.3
65+	44%	32%	10%	8%	6%	367	5.1
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	35%	27%	16%	12%	10%	597	4.0
College or CEGEP	36%	29%	16%	10%	9%	807	3.5
University or higher	32%	39%	14%	8%	7%	905	3.3
<b>METROPOLITAN CANADA</b>							
Vancouver	35%	35%	18%	12%	0%	109	9.4
Calgary	66%	19%	7%	8%	0%	68	11.9
Toronto	33%	45%	12%	11%	0%	328	5.4
Ottawa	48%	32%	7%	12%	0%	138	8.3
Montreal	17%	31%	10%	8%	35%	296	5.7

<sup>1</sup> The data presented in this and our other tables on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 14.3% of Canadians say they are undecided.





### **Federal Vote Intention – British Columbia**

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>5.7</b>
GENDER						
Male	40%	29%	20%	11%	138	8.3
Female	39%	29%	17%	15%	157	7.8
AGE						
<25	32%	16%	20%	32%	24	20.0
25-44	32%	33%	21%	13%	97	10.0
45-64	42%	33%	18%	6%	112	9.3
65+	52%	20%	13%	15%	62	12.5
EDUCATION						
High school or less	39%	30%	15%	16%	72	11.6
College or CEGEP	46%	23%	20%	11%	108	9.4
University or higher	34%	35%	19%	12%	115	9.1





### **Federal Vote Intention – Alberta**

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>7.0</b>
GENDER						
Male	55%	32%	8%	5%	103	9.7
Female	58%	16%	12%	15%	96	10.0
AGE						
<25	36%	25%	33%	6%	17	23.8
25-44	51%	24%	11%	14%	85	10.6
45-64	63%	24%	6%	6%	85	10.6
65+	67%	25%	0%	9%	12	28.3
EDUCATION						
High school or less	54%	15%	18%	14%	43	14.9
College or CEGEP	55%	26%	8%	11%	77	11.2
University or higher	60%	29%	6%	5%	79	11.0





### **Federal Vote Intention – Saskatchewan/Manitoba**

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>GENDER</b>						
Male	51%	28%	13%	9%	74	11.4
Female	55%	8%	27%	11%	59	12.8
<b>AGE</b>						
<25	38%	24%	32%	6%	11	29.6
25-44	52%	19%	19%	10%	45	14.6
45-64	56%	14%	21%	9%	55	13.2
65+	55%	16%	16%	13%	22	20.9
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
High school or less	45%	12%	34%	9%	29	18.2
College or CEGEP	46%	23%	22%	9%	49	14.0
University or higher	64%	15%	10%	11%	55	13.2

### **Federal Vote Intention – Ontario**






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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>GENDER</b>						
Male	40%	36%	16%	9%	450	4.6
Female	31%	42%	16%	12%	418	4.8
<b>AGE</b>						
<25	20%	30%	26%	23%	89	10.4
25-44	34%	38%	18%	10%	278	5.9
45-64	36%	42%	14%	8%	358	5.2
65+	47%	38%	8%	6%	143	8.2
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
High school or less	41%	27%	19%	14%	168	7.6
College or CEGEP	39%	34%	17%	11%	300	5.7
University or higher	30%	48%	13%	8%	400	4.9







### **Federal Vote Intention – Quebec**

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

						Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>GENDER</b>							
Male	20%	27%	9%	6%	37%	320	5.5
Female	16%	32%	13%	9%	30%	322	5.5
<b>AGE</b>							
<25	15%	24%	8%	12%	41%	84	10.7
25-44	14%	29%	13%	9%	35%	244	6.3
45-64	18%	29%	12%	6%	35%	214	6.7
65+	28%	34%	8%	5%	24%	100	9.8
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
High school or less	20%	29%	11%	9%	31%	220	6.6
College or CEGEP	19%	29%	9%	6%	38%	220	6.6
University or higher	15%	31%	13%	8%	33%	202	6.9

### **Federal Vote Intention – Atlantic Canada**

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

					Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>GENDER</b>						
Male	30%	41%	21%	7%	78	11.1
Female	24%	41%	30%	5%	94	10.1
<b>AGE</b>						
<25	20%	23%	38%	20%	19	22.5
25-44	27%	41%	26%	6%	56	13.1
45-64	26%	53%	18%	3%	69	11.8
65+	35%	31%	30%	3%	28	18.5
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
High school or less	40%	35%	17%	8%	65	12.2
College or CEGEP	23%	34%	35%	8%	53	13.5
University or higher	16%	55%	28%	2%	54	13.3

## **Support for the Mission in Afghanistan**

*Q. Do you support or oppose Canadian military participation in Afghanistan?*

	Support	Neither	Oppose	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>2713</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>REGION</b>					
British Columbia	40%	11%	49%	336	5.4
Alberta	42%	13%	45%	230	6.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	48%	12%	41%	164	7.7
Ontario	39%	12%	49%	1035	3.1
Quebec	15%	13%	73%	745	3.6
Atlantic Canada	36%	11%	53%	203	6.9
<b>GENDER</b>					
Male	41%	11%	48%	1333	2.7
Female	27%	13%	60%	1380	2.6
<b>AGE</b>					
<25	28%	9%	62%	300	5.7
25-44	33%	11%	56%	951	3.2
45-64	38%	12%	50%	1032	3.1
65+	30%	15%	55%	430	4.7
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
High school or less	29%	13%	59%	741	3.6
College or CEGEP	33%	13%	54%	934	3.2
University or higher	38%	10%	52%	1038	3.0
<b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b>					
Conservative Party of Canada	51%	12%	37%	782	3.5
Liberal Party of Canada	31%	11%	58%	744	3.6
NDP	20%	8%	72%	338	5.3
Green Party	26%	9%	65%	221	6.6
Bloc Québécois	11%	13%	77%	224	6.6
Undecided	29%	19%	51%	309	5.6

### **Direction of country**

*Q. 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 (+/-)
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>REGION</b>					
British Columbia	64%	25%	11%	169	7.5
Alberta	65%	26%	9%	123	8.8
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	64%	21%	15%	78	11.1
Ontario	55%	35%	10%	537	4.2
Quebec	45%	43%	12%	377	5.0
Atlantic Canada	48%	42%	10%	108	9.4
<b>GENDER</b>					
Male	55%	37%	9%	659	3.8
Female	55%	32%	13%	733	3.6
<b>AGE</b>					
<25	51%	38%	11%	143	8.2
25-44	53%	39%	8%	474	4.5
45-64	58%	33%	9%	541	4.2
65+	53%	27%	20%	234	6.4
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
High school or less	53%	33%	15%	364	5.1
College or CEGEP	54%	35%	10%	469	4.5
University or higher	57%	35%	8%	559	4.1
<b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b>					
Conservative Party of Canada	78%	14%	8%	387	5.0
Liberal Party of Canada	48%	42%	11%	397	4.9
NDP	43%	51%	6%	168	4.6
Green Party	41%	47%	12%	111	9.3
Bloc Québécois	37%	48%	15%	117	9.1
Undecided	50%	35%	15%	162	7.7

### **Direction of the Government of Canada**

*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 (+/-)
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>REGION</b>					
British Columbia	53%	34%	13%	167	7.6
Alberta	61%	32%	7%	107	9.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	54%	22%	24%	86	10.6
Ontario	50%	40%	9%	498	4.4
Quebec	40%	48%	12%	368	5.1
Atlantic Canada	44%	43%	13%	95	10.0
<b>GENDER</b>					
Male	51%	39%	9%	674	3.8
Female	46%	39%	14%	647	3.8
<b>AGE</b>					
<25	47%	44%	10%	157	7.8
25-44	46%	43%	11%	477	4.5
45-64	51%	37%	12%	491	4.4
65+	54%	33%	12%	196	7.0
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
High school or less	47%	38%	15%	377	5.0
College or CEGEP	50%	39%	11%	465	4.5
University or higher	49%	41%	9%	479	4.5
<b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b>					
Conservative Party of Canada	81%	13%	5%	395	4.9
Liberal Party of Canada	42%	48%	10%	347	5.2
NDP	31%	57%	12%	170	7.5
Green Party	37%	51%	12%	110	9.3
Bloc Québécois	17%	69%	14%	107	9.5
Undecided	32%	41%	27%	147	8.1

## 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 land-line only RDD, we created a dual land-line/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able reach those with both a land-line and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and land-line only households. This dual frame yields a near perfect unweighted distribution on age group and gender, something almost never seen with traditional land-line RDD sample or interviewer administered surveys.

The field dates for this survey are July 8-14, 2009. In total, a random sample of 2,713 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey (including a sub-sample of 2,309 decided voters). The margin of error associated with total sample is +/- 1.9 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, income). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.