

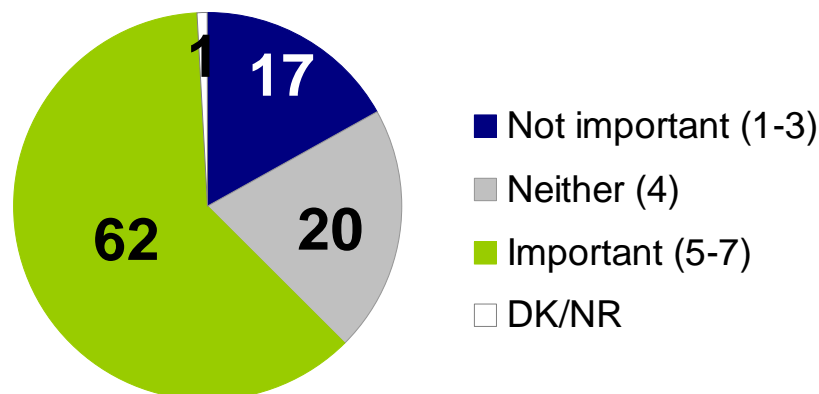
## THE DEBATE ABOUT THE DEBATES:

*PUBLIC DEEPLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT MOTIVES FOR ALTERNATIVE DEBATES*

[Ottawa – June 3, 2015] The debates are the most viewed event of any campaign. While there are mixed views about the actual efficacy of the debates in shaping electoral outcomes, there is no question that they are the pivotal spectacle of the campaign. Our new polling confirms the salience of the debates as a resource for presenting the leaders and their platforms to voters in the later stages of the campaign.

### Importance of leaders' debates

*Q. Overall, how important do you think the leaders' debates are to the democratic process and to help voters make choices?*



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BASE: Canadians (online only); May 29-June 1, 2015 (n=937), MOE +/- 3.2%, 19 times out of 20

Claimed deficiencies in the traditional debate model have been raised as a basis for calling for new formats and media outreach. Stephen Harper has gone so far as to say he categorically will not participate in the traditional debates hosted by the major television media players. Along with some of the other parties, the government has agreed to some new debate models, putatively to increase access and innovation.

Whatever the real motivations, the net effect of this is to deny Elizabeth May a place in these new debates (mostly) and to leave the parties of the center and left to debate amongst themselves while Mr. Harper mimics the famous empty chair at the last Republican Presidential convention. This decision does not rest well with voters who see the traditional debates as a very important basis for voter choice and a healthy democratic process. While being deeply skeptical

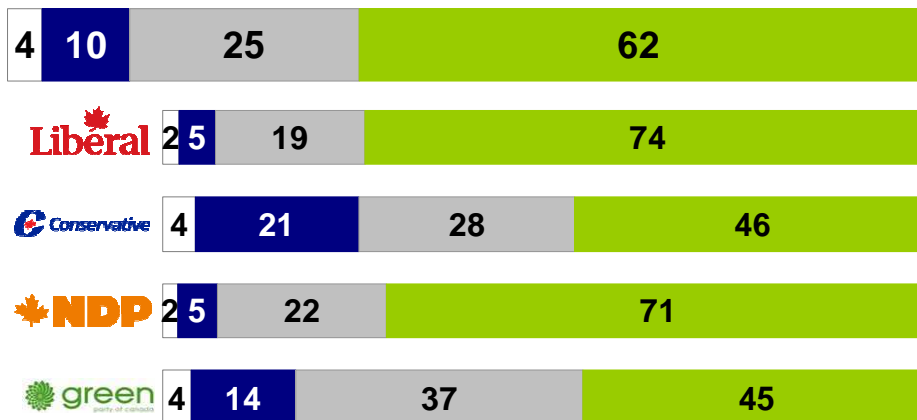
about the motives of the Prime Minister, and any parties that don't think that all of the leaders should be present for all of the debates, the public overwhelmingly think the traditional debate should proceed, with or without Mr. Harper.

The poll also brings into question the apparent assumption that the traditional approach had outlived its usefulness. But do the voters actually agree with this assumption? The answer may be surprising to those following this debate about debates.

## Satisfaction with old debate format

*Q. Traditionally, there have been two leaders' debates in an election campaign - one in English and one in French - and both have been hosted by the major national Broadcasters, namely CTV, CBC, Global/Shaw, and Radio Canada. All things considered, how satisfied were you with this approach?*

### Overall



DK/NR  
  Dissatisfied (1-3)  
  Neither (4)  
  Satisfied (5-7)

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The public think the traditional debates provide a critical resource to voters and they express broad satisfaction with that approach. Fully 62 per cent are satisfied and only 10 per cent are dissatisfied. Even Conservative supporters are satisfied, albeit in a more tepid manner than other party supporters. NDP and Liberal supporters show almost no dissatisfaction, although satisfaction was lower among Conservative supporters and (ironically perhaps) Green Party supporters.

More specific probing on perceived motivations and what to do produces a similarly damning picture of Mr. Harper's decision to take a pass on the consortium debate. They overwhelmingly say that if Mr. Harper wants to take his ball and go home, that should not interfere with the debates proceeding. This result is not to be viewed as "permission", but rather frustrated resignation. Almost all respondents think that all of the leaders should attend all of the debate – period.

## Views on new debate format

Q. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

*The major network-led debates should **go ahead as planned**, even if Mr. Harper does not attend*



*Political parties are trying to **advance their own selfish motives** under the guise of creating a fairer and more democratic process*



*The format for the leaders' debates in Canada should be determined by an **independent commission***



*By not participating in the network debates and going to smaller media organizations, Mr. Harper is bringing **more open and innovative** democracy to the leaders' debate*



DK/NR  
  Disagree (1-3)  
  Neither (4)  
  Agree (5-7)

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BASE: Canadians (online only); May 29-June 1, 2015 (n=937), MOE +/- 3.2%, 19 times out of 20

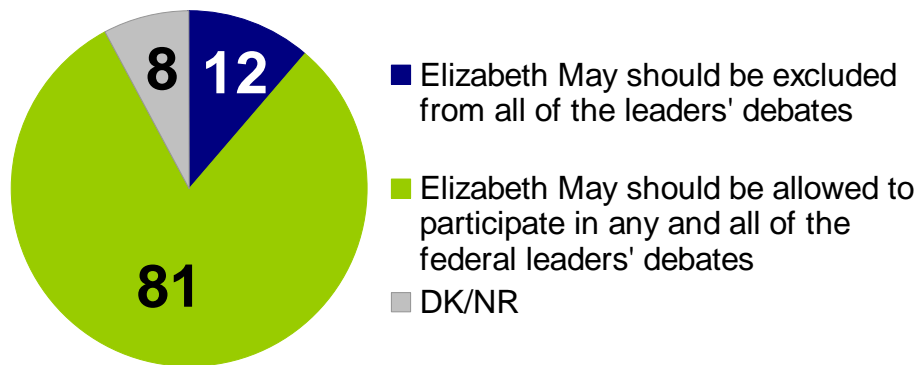
The public also believe that political parties are jockeying for political advantage and that open and fair democracy is being compromised. The strong lean to favouring and independent oversight commission also reinforces the public's skepticism about the apparent rationale for these decisions. Almost no one buys the Conservative Party's claim that this will be more open and innovative; most think it is just another illustration of party self-interest eclipsing the public interest. Interestingly, the importance of these debates ranked highest among younger voters, which brings into question the idea that this is little more than a tired anachronism. Certainly the networks are well versed in the use of parallel social media methods to complement the traditional mainstream methods.

As for Elizabeth May's attendance in any and all leadership debates, the public are quite clear. By a huge margin, they want her to be at the debates.

## Support for including Elizabeth May

Q. Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party, participated in the 2008 debates, but was not allowed to participate in the 2011 debates. This year, Elizabeth May was invited to be included in the national broadcasters-led debates. So far, however, she has only been invited to one of the new debates.

Recognizing that the Green Party currently holds seats in the House of Commons, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?



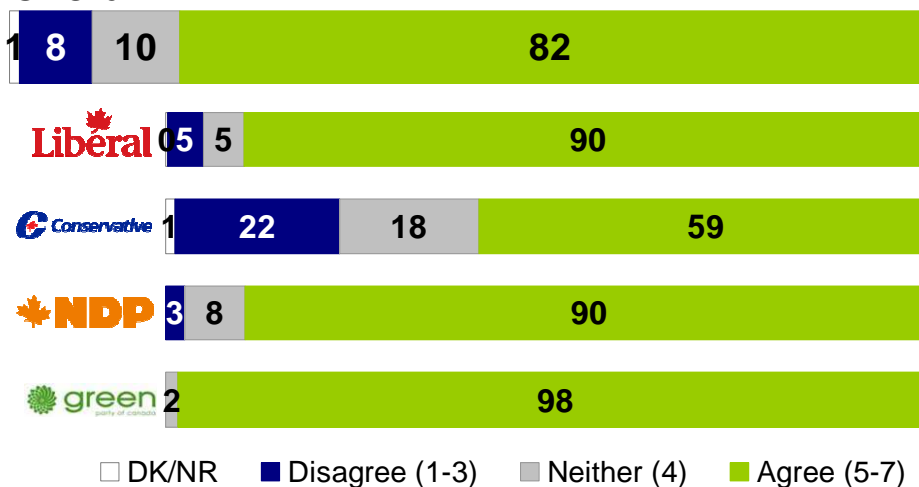
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## Support for including all parties in debates

Q. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: In the interest of democracy, all party leaders should participate in all of the debates

### Overall



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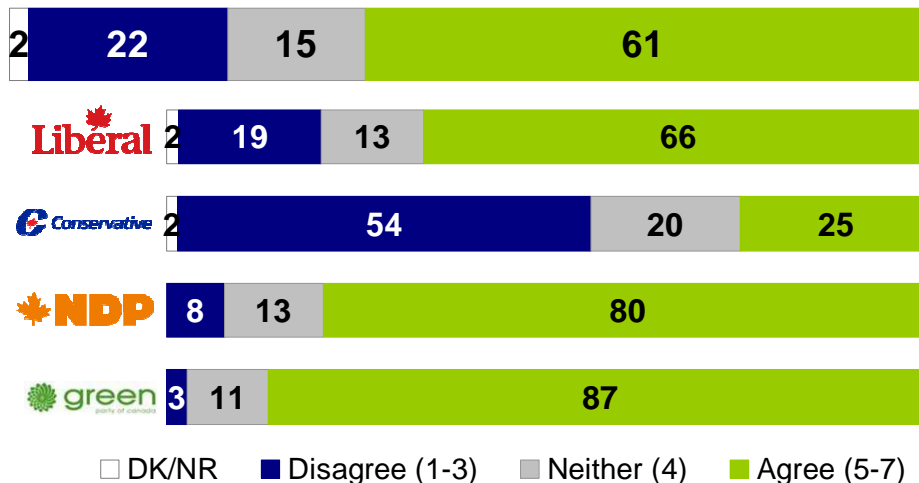
Even more simply, the public think the rules guiding this should be simple and clear – all party leaders should participate in all debates. This is a point of virtual consensus with only tiny minorities of most party supporters disagreeing. Even within the Conservative ranks, this simple guideline is overwhelmingly embraced.

Finally, it seems that a large majority of voters would like to see a special debate about climate change and the environment. Our earlier research shows these issues to be the orphaned issue so far and the public would like this redressed – with one notable exception: Conservative supporters are actually opposed to this by a two-to-one margin, wildly out of step with everyone else.

## Support for environment debate

Q. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: We should have a debate devoted to the environment and climate change

### Overall



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In short, the public like the traditional debate format and would be loath to see it scuttled. They are deeply skeptical about the claims that this would somehow enhance democracy; in fact they see it having the opposite effect. The public are open to innovation as well as the traditional approach. The conditions for this are quite straightforward – all leaders at all debates. Finally, the voters are finding stated claims about high democratic motives risibly disingenuous. For any parties thinking of sacrificing the traditional debates on the altar of political self-interest, they may wish to heed these results and the likely corrosive consequences for their parties proceeding on that path.

## Detailed tables:

| <b>Importance of Leaders' Debates</b>   |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
|---|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Q. Overall, how important do you think the leaders' debates are to the democratic process and to help voters make choices?</i> |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
|   | Not important (1-3) | Neither (4)  | Important (5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>   | <b>17.0%</b>        | <b>20.4%</b> | <b>61.7%</b>    | <b>0.9%</b> | <b>937</b>  | <b>3.2</b>            |
| <b>REGION</b>   |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| British Columbia  | 12.6%               | 22.0%        | 65.5%           | 0.0%        | 132         | 8.5                   |
| Alberta   | 19.5%               | 14.2%        | 65.6%           | 0.7%        | 103         | 9.7                   |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba   | 20.5%               | 26.1%        | 53.5%           | 0.0%        | 76          | 11.2                  |
| Ontario   | 14.4%               | 20.2%        | 64.1%           | 1.3%        | 306         | 5.6                   |
| Quebec  | 20.5%               | 20.2%        | 58.4%           | 0.9%        | 178         | 7.4                   |
| Atlantic Canada   | 19.1%               | 24.9%        | 54.2%           | 1.8%        | 137         | 8.4                   |
| <b>GENDER</b>   |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| Male  | 17.1%               | 17.0%        | 65.3%           | 0.6%        | 503         | 4.4                   |
| Female  | 16.9%               | 23.7%        | 58.2%           | 1.2%        | 433         | 4.7                   |
| <b>AGE</b>  |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| <35   | 13.4%               | 17.9%        | 68.7%           | 0.0%        | 149         | 8.0                   |
| 35-44   | 16.1%               | 18.7%        | 64.3%           | 0.9%        | 173         | 7.5                   |
| 45-54   | 18.3%               | 18.8%        | 60.6%           | 2.3%        | 226         | 6.5                   |
| 55-64   | 25.1%               | 16.9%        | 58.1%           | 0.0%        | 236         | 6.4                   |
| 65+   | 14.6%               | 30.8%        | 52.9%           | 1.7%        | 146         | 8.1                   |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>  |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| High school or less   | 16.5%               | 24.1%        | 58.4%           | 1.0%        | 161         | 7.7                   |
| College or CEGEP  | 18.2%               | 19.3%        | 61.0%           | 1.5%        | 352         | 5.2                   |
| University or higher  | 15.3%               | 17.8%        | 66.6%           | 0.3%        | 413         | 4.8                   |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b>   |                     |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| Liberal Party   | 13.8%               | 15.0%        | 71.0%           | 0.2%        | 249         | 6.2                   |
| Conservative Party  | 20.1%               | 24.3%        | 55.1%           | 0.6%        | 223         | 6.6                   |
| NDP   | 13.1%               | 20.4%        | 65.8%           | 0.7%        | 309         | 5.6                   |
| Green Party   | 12.9%               | 31.7%        | 55.3%           | 0.0%        | 45          | 14.6                  |

### **Satisfaction with Old Debate Format**

*Q. Traditionally, there have been two leaders' debates in an election campaign - one in English and one in French - and both have been hosted by the major national Broadcasters, namely CTV, CBC, Global/Shaw, and Radio Canada. All things considered, how satisfied were you with this approach?*

|                               | Dissatisfied (1-3) | Neither (4)  | Satisfied (5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>9.5%</b>        | <b>24.8%</b> | <b>61.9%</b>    | <b>3.8%</b> | <b>937</b>  | <b>3.2</b>            |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                    |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| British Columbia              | 10.2%              | 27.2%        | 60.4%           | 2.2%        | 132         | 8.5                   |
| Alberta                       | 15.8%              | 21.6%        | 58.1%           | 4.5%        | 103         | 9.7                   |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 13.6%              | 35.5%        | 47.1%           | 3.7%        | 76          | 11.2                  |
| Ontario                       | 10.6%              | 21.6%        | 64.6%           | 3.2%        | 306         | 5.6                   |
| Quebec                        | 5.7%               | 24.9%        | 64.1%           | 5.4%        | 178         | 7.4                   |
| Atlantic Canada               | 3.4%               | 32.3%        | 60.8%           | 3.5%        | 137         | 8.4                   |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                    |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| Male                          | 12.7%              | 23.8%        | 59.7%           | 3.8%        | 503         | 4.4                   |
| Female                        | 6.6%               | 25.8%        | 63.9%           | 3.7%        | 433         | 4.7                   |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                    |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| <35                           | 10.8%              | 21.0%        | 65.7%           | 2.5%        | 149         | 8.0                   |
| 35-44                         | 7.6%               | 31.4%        | 55.3%           | 5.7%        | 173         | 7.5                   |
| 45-54                         | 7.8%               | 26.5%        | 60.7%           | 5.1%        | 226         | 6.5                   |
| 55-64                         | 10.3%              | 22.9%        | 63.6%           | 3.2%        | 236         | 6.4                   |
| 65+                           | 10.9%              | 23.7%        | 62.1%           | 3.3%        | 146         | 8.1                   |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                    |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| High school or less           | 9.5%               | 29.2%        | 55.5%           | 5.8%        | 161         | 7.7                   |
| College or CEGEP              | 11.0%              | 23.7%        | 61.9%           | 3.4%        | 352         | 5.2                   |
| University or higher          | 8.0%               | 21.9%        | 68.5%           | 1.5%        | 413         | 4.8                   |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                    |              |                 |             |             |                       |
| Liberal Party                 | 4.8%               | 19.4%        | 73.7%           | 2.1%        | 249         | 6.2                   |
| Conservative Party            | 21.3%              | 28.1%        | 46.4%           | 4.2%        | 223         | 6.6                   |
| NDP                           | 5.1%               | 22.0%        | 70.9%           | 2.0%        | 309         | 5.6                   |
| Green Party                   | 13.7%              | 37.3%        | 45.4%           | 3.7%        | 45          | 14.6                  |

### **Views on Debate Format: Support for Moving Ahead without Harper**

*Q. Stephen Harper has announced that he will not attend a debate hosted by the major national Broadcasters, namely CTV, CBC, Global/Shaw, and Radio Canada. Instead, he intends to participate in other debates, to be hosted by smaller media outlets of his party's choosing. The NDP has indicated that Thomas Mulcair will attend these debates, while the Liberals have yet to announce a decision. So far, the Green Party has only been invited to one of the new debates. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

*The major network-led debates should go ahead as planned, even if Mr. Harper does not attend*

|                               | Disagree<br>(1-3) | Neither (4)  | Agree<br>(5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample<br>Size | Margin<br>of Error<br>(+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>11.2%</b>      | <b>11.7%</b> | <b>74.3%</b>   | <b>2.8%</b> | <b>937</b>     | <b>3.2</b>                  |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| British Columbia              | 9.3%              | 7.6%         | 83.0%          | 0.0%        | 132            | 8.5                         |
| Alberta                       | 18.4%             | 15.1%        | 63.1%          | 3.5%        | 103            | 9.7                         |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 17.1%             | 15.2%        | 59.7%          | 8.0%        | 76             | 11.2                        |
| Ontario                       | 8.9%              | 9.5%         | 78.7%          | 2.9%        | 306            | 5.6                         |
| Quebec                        | 12.6%             | 15.6%        | 69.0%          | 2.8%        | 178            | 7.4                         |
| Atlantic Canada               | 6.6%              | 11.7%        | 79.9%          | 1.9%        | 137            | 8.4                         |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Male                          | 14.1%             | 11.3%        | 71.0%          | 3.6%        | 503            | 4.4                         |
| Female                        | 8.4%              | 12.2%        | 77.3%          | 2.1%        | 433            | 4.7                         |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| <35                           | 5.9%              | 12.0%        | 80.7%          | 1.4%        | 149            | 8.0                         |
| 35-44                         | 14.8%             | 10.0%        | 73.3%          | 1.9%        | 173            | 7.5                         |
| 45-54                         | 13.2%             | 12.6%        | 68.9%          | 5.4%        | 226            | 6.5                         |
| 55-64                         | 14.7%             | 11.4%        | 71.5%          | 2.3%        | 236            | 6.4                         |
| 65+                           | 10.8%             | 12.3%        | 74.0%          | 2.9%        | 146            | 8.1                         |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| High school or less           | 10.9%             | 16.4%        | 68.5%          | 4.2%        | 161            | 7.7                         |
| College or CEGEP              | 13.0%             | 13.5%        | 70.7%          | 2.7%        | 352            | 5.2                         |
| University or higher          | 8.8%              | 5.5%         | 84.1%          | 1.5%        | 413            | 4.8                         |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Liberal Party                 | 5.0%              | 5.3%         | 87.3%          | 2.4%        | 249            | 6.2                         |
| Conservative Party            | 27.6%             | 22.7%        | 44.5%          | 5.2%        | 223            | 6.6                         |
| NDP                           | 5.2%              | 7.4%         | 87.0%          | 0.4%        | 309            | 5.6                         |
| Green Party                   | 2.8%              | 1.5%         | 95.7%          | 0.0%        | 45             | 14.6                        |



### **Views on Debate Format: Perceived Motives of Politicians**

*Q. Stephen Harper has announced that he will not attend a debate hosted by the major national Broadcasters, namely CTV, CBC, Global/Shaw, and Radio Canada. Instead, he intends to participate in other debates, to be hosted by smaller media outlets of his party's choosing. The NDP has indicated that Thomas Mulcair will attend these debates, while the Liberals have yet to announce a decision. So far, the Green Party has only been invited to one of the new debates. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

*Political parties are trying to advance their own selfish motives under the guise of creating a fairer and more democratic process*

|                               | Disagree<br>(1-3) | Neither (4)  | Agree<br>(5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample<br>Size | Margin<br>of Error<br>(+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>11.1%</b>      | <b>14.6%</b> | <b>70.4%</b>   | <b>3.9%</b> | <b>937</b>     | <b>3.2</b>                  |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| British Columbia              | 6.7%              | 17.4%        | 73.0%          | 3.0%        | 132            | 8.5                         |
| Alberta                       | 17.5%             | 13.9%        | 67.0%          | 1.6%        | 103            | 9.7                         |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 13.7%             | 12.9%        | 65.4%          | 8.0%        | 76             | 11.2                        |
| Ontario                       | 12.4%             | 9.5%         | 74.0%          | 4.1%        | 306            | 5.6                         |
| Quebec                        | 8.7%              | 21.8%        | 65.4%          | 4.0%        | 178            | 7.4                         |
| Atlantic Canada               | 8.1%              | 16.5%        | 71.5%          | 3.9%        | 137            | 8.4                         |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Male                          | 9.9%              | 13.3%        | 74.7%          | 2.1%        | 503            | 4.4                         |
| Female                        | 12.2%             | 15.9%        | 66.3%          | 5.5%        | 433            | 4.7                         |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| <35                           | 9.1%              | 13.6%        | 75.3%          | 2.1%        | 149            | 8.0                         |
| 35-44                         | 9.9%              | 18.0%        | 71.8%          | 0.4%        | 173            | 7.5                         |
| 45-54                         | 10.1%             | 17.2%        | 63.9%          | 8.8%        | 226            | 6.5                         |
| 55-64                         | 13.7%             | 12.4%        | 68.8%          | 5.2%        | 236            | 6.4                         |
| 65+                           | 14.2%             | 12.6%        | 70.3%          | 2.9%        | 146            | 8.1                         |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| High school or less           | 13.0%             | 17.1%        | 66.3%          | 3.5%        | 161            | 7.7                         |
| College or CEGEP              | 12.0%             | 16.8%        | 66.5%          | 4.7%        | 352            | 5.2                         |
| University or higher          | 8.4%              | 10.3%        | 78.4%          | 2.8%        | 413            | 4.8                         |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Liberal Party                 | 6.9%              | 7.7%         | 80.8%          | 4.6%        | 249            | 6.2                         |
| Conservative Party            | 24.3%             | 19.4%        | 50.7%          | 5.6%        | 223            | 6.6                         |
| NDP                           | 7.6%              | 12.9%        | 78.3%          | 1.2%        | 309            | 5.6                         |
| Green Party                   | 8.3%              | 8.6%         | 82.1%          | 1.0%        | 45             | 14.6                        |

### **Views on Debate Format: Support for Independent Commission**

*Q. Stephen Harper has announced that he will not attend a debate hosted by the major national Broadcasters, namely CTV, CBC, Global/Shaw, and Radio Canada. Instead, he intends to participate in other debates, to be hosted by smaller media outlets of his party's choosing. The NDP has indicated that Thomas Mulcair will attend these debates, while the Liberals have yet to announce a decision. So far, the Green Party has only been invited to one of the new debates. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

*The format for the leaders' debates in Canada should be determined by an independent commission*

|                               | Disagree<br>(1-3) | Neither (4)  | Agree<br>(5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample<br>Size | Margin<br>of Error<br>(+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>10.4%</b>      | <b>15.8%</b> | <b>68.9%</b>   | <b>4.9%</b> | <b>937</b>     | <b>3.2</b>                  |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| British Columbia              | 8.1%              | 14.8%        | 75.1%          | 2.0%        | 132            | 8.5                         |
| Alberta                       | 10.8%             | 14.5%        | 68.3%          | 6.5%        | 103            | 9.7                         |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 16.0%             | 12.1%        | 64.2%          | 7.7%        | 76             | 11.2                        |
| Ontario                       | 11.5%             | 13.6%        | 69.8%          | 5.0%        | 306            | 5.6                         |
| Quebec                        | 8.3%              | 20.5%        | 66.9%          | 4.3%        | 178            | 7.4                         |
| Atlantic Canada               | 9.6%              | 18.6%        | 64.1%          | 7.7%        | 137            | 8.4                         |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Male                          | 14.2%             | 13.1%        | 69.2%          | 3.5%        | 503            | 4.4                         |
| Female                        | 6.8%              | 18.3%        | 68.6%          | 6.3%        | 433            | 4.7                         |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| <35                           | 9.1%              | 16.1%        | 70.7%          | 4.1%        | 149            | 8.0                         |
| 35-44                         | 11.7%             | 18.5%        | 67.7%          | 2.1%        | 173            | 7.5                         |
| 45-54                         | 8.4%              | 12.4%        | 70.4%          | 8.7%        | 226            | 6.5                         |
| 55-64                         | 13.1%             | 19.5%        | 64.0%          | 3.4%        | 236            | 6.4                         |
| 65+                           | 11.1%             | 13.1%        | 70.0%          | 5.8%        | 146            | 8.1                         |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| High school or less           | 11.1%             | 13.7%        | 69.5%          | 5.7%        | 161            | 7.7                         |
| College or CEGEP              | 10.4%             | 21.3%        | 62.0%          | 6.2%        | 352            | 5.2                         |
| University or higher          | 9.9%              | 12.2%        | 75.3%          | 2.6%        | 413            | 4.8                         |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Liberal Party                 | 6.3%              | 12.8%        | 75.4%          | 5.5%        | 249            | 6.2                         |
| Conservative Party            | 17.6%             | 21.5%        | 54.8%          | 6.1%        | 223            | 6.6                         |
| NDP                           | 8.2%              | 16.8%        | 72.2%          | 2.8%        | 309            | 5.6                         |
| Green Party                   | 3.9%              | 4.3%         | 91.8%          | 0.0%        | 45             | 14.6                        |

### **Views on Debate Format: Perceived Benefits of New Debate Formats**

*Q. Stephen Harper has announced that he will not attend a debate hosted by the major national Broadcasters, namely CTV, CBC, Global/Shaw, and Radio Canada. Instead, he intends to participate in other debates, to be hosted by smaller media outlets of his party's choosing. The NDP has indicated that Thomas Mulcair will attend these debates, while the Liberals have yet to announce a decision. So far, the Green Party has only been invited to one of the new debates. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

*By not participating in the network debates and going to smaller media organizations, Mr. Harper is bringing more open and innovative democracy to the leaders' debate*

|                               | Disagree<br>(1-3) | Neither (4)  | Agree<br>(5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample<br>Size | Margin<br>of Error<br>(+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>67.2%</b>      | <b>12.8%</b> | <b>16.4%</b>   | <b>3.6%</b> | <b>937</b>     | <b>3.2</b>                  |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| British Columbia              | 76.7%             | 12.5%        | 8.0%           | 2.8%        | 132            | 8.5                         |
| Alberta                       | 51.9%             | 11.8%        | 30.9%          | 5.4%        | 103            | 9.7                         |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 62.5%             | 3.0%         | 26.0%          | 8.5%        | 76             | 11.2                        |
| Ontario                       | 67.7%             | 12.4%        | 17.2%          | 2.7%        | 306            | 5.6                         |
| Quebec                        | 69.6%             | 14.9%        | 12.2%          | 3.3%        | 178            | 7.4                         |
| Atlantic Canada               | 64.0%             | 18.5%        | 13.1%          | 4.4%        | 137            | 8.4                         |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Male                          | 67.3%             | 11.0%        | 19.7%          | 2.0%        | 503            | 4.4                         |
| Female                        | 67.1%             | 14.4%        | 13.3%          | 5.1%        | 433            | 4.7                         |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| <35                           | 72.6%             | 13.5%        | 13.9%          | 0.0%        | 149            | 8.0                         |
| 35-44                         | 66.1%             | 13.3%        | 16.8%          | 3.8%        | 173            | 7.5                         |
| 45-54                         | 59.6%             | 13.1%        | 18.1%          | 9.3%        | 226            | 6.5                         |
| 55-64                         | 69.9%             | 13.2%        | 14.9%          | 2.0%        | 236            | 6.4                         |
| 65+                           | 66.5%             | 10.4%        | 19.3%          | 3.7%        | 146            | 8.1                         |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| High school or less           | 60.8%             | 14.8%        | 17.6%          | 6.8%        | 161            | 7.7                         |
| College or CEGEP              | 63.6%             | 15.1%        | 19.4%          | 1.9%        | 352            | 5.2                         |
| University or higher          | 78.1%             | 8.6%         | 11.4%          | 1.9%        | 413            | 4.8                         |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Liberal Party                 | 88.2%             | 7.3%         | 3.5%           | 1.0%        | 249            | 6.2                         |
| Conservative Party            | 23.7%             | 19.7%        | 52.8%          | 3.8%        | 223            | 6.6                         |
| NDP                           | 83.5%             | 9.7%         | 4.7%           | 2.1%        | 309            | 5.6                         |
| Green Party                   | 79.7%             | 12.2%        | 7.1%           | 1.0%        | 45             | 14.6                        |

### **Support for Including Elizabeth May**

*Q. Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party, participated in the 2008 debates, but was not allowed to participate in the 2011 debates. This year, Elizabeth May was invited to be included in the national broadcasters-led debates. So far, however, she has only been invited to one of the new debates.*

*Recognizing that the Green Party currently holds seats in the House of Commons, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?*

|                               | Elizabeth May should be allowed to participate in any and all of the federal leaders' debates | Elizabeth May should be excluded from all of the leaders' debates | DK/NR       | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
|-------------------------------|---|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>80.6%</b>  | <b>11.5%</b>  | <b>7.9%</b> | <b>937</b>  | <b>3.2</b>            |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |   |   |             |             |                       |
| British Columbia              | 90.0%   | 7.3%  | 2.6%        | 132         | 8.5                   |
| Alberta                       | 77.1%   | 16.7%   | 6.2%        | 103         | 9.7                   |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 68.5%   | 23.5%   | 8.1%        | 76          | 11.2                  |
| Ontario                       | 83.5%   | 12.1%   | 4.4%        | 306         | 5.6                   |
| Quebec                        | 74.1%   | 8.8%  | 17.1%       | 178         | 7.4                   |
| Atlantic Canada               | 83.4%   | 7.5%  | 9.1%        | 137         | 8.4                   |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |   |   |             |             |                       |
| Male                          | 75.8%   | 17.3%   | 6.8%        | 503         | 4.4                   |
| Female                        | 85.0%   | 6.1%  | 9.0%        | 433         | 4.7                   |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |   |   |             |             |                       |
| <35                           | 83.2%   | 10.0%   | 6.8%        | 149         | 8.0                   |
| 35-44                         | 79.3%   | 11.1%   | 9.6%        | 173         | 7.5                   |
| 45-54                         | 76.6%   | 14.9%   | 8.5%        | 226         | 6.5                   |
| 55-64                         | 83.8%   | 10.5%   | 5.7%        | 236         | 6.4                   |
| 65+                           | 79.0%   | 11.7%   | 9.3%        | 146         | 8.1                   |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |   |   |             |             |                       |
| High school or less           | 76.3%   | 11.8%   | 11.9%       | 161         | 7.7                   |
| College or CEGEP              | 78.9%   | 12.3%   | 8.8%        | 352         | 5.2                   |
| University or higher          | 87.1%   | 10.0%   | 2.9%        | 413         | 4.8                   |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |   |   |             |             |                       |
| Liberal Party                 | 87.5%   | 7.6%  | 4.9%        | 249         | 6.2                   |
| Conservative Party            | 61.3%   | 29.9%   | 8.8%        | 223         | 6.6                   |
| NDP                           | 90.0%   | 4.5%  | 5.5%        | 309         | 5.6                   |
| Green Party                   | 98.2%   | 1.8%  | 0.0%        | 45          | 14.6                  |

### **Support for Including All Parties in Debates**

*Q. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:*

*In the interest of democracy, all party leaders should participate in all of the debates*

|                               | Disagree<br>(1-3) | Neither (4) | Agree<br>(5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample<br>Size | Margin<br>of Error<br>(+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>7.9%</b>       | <b>9.5%</b> | <b>81.5%</b>   | <b>1.1%</b> | <b>937</b>     | <b>3.2</b>                  |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                   |             |                |             |                |                             |
| British Columbia              | 3.5%              | 5.8%        | 90.1%          | 0.5%        | 132            | 8.5                         |
| Alberta                       | 13.0%             | 11.2%       | 74.4%          | 1.4%        | 103            | 9.7                         |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 16.6%             | 13.8%       | 69.5%          | 0.0%        | 76             | 11.2                        |
| Ontario                       | 8.0%              | 9.3%        | 81.7%          | 1.1%        | 306            | 5.6                         |
| Quebec                        | 6.6%              | 12.3%       | 79.7%          | 1.4%        | 178            | 7.4                         |
| Atlantic Canada               | 5.0%              | 3.1%        | 89.6%          | 2.3%        | 137            | 8.4                         |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                   |             |                |             |                |                             |
| Male                          | 9.7%              | 10.8%       | 78.1%          | 1.5%        | 503            | 4.4                         |
| Female                        | 6.2%              | 8.4%        | 84.6%          | 0.8%        | 433            | 4.7                         |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                   |             |                |             |                |                             |
| <35                           | 5.4%              | 9.0%        | 85.6%          | 0.0%        | 149            | 8.0                         |
| 35-44                         | 9.5%              | 8.1%        | 80.7%          | 1.7%        | 173            | 7.5                         |
| 45-54                         | 7.3%              | 10.5%       | 79.7%          | 2.5%        | 226            | 6.5                         |
| 55-64                         | 10.2%             | 8.2%        | 81.3%          | 0.3%        | 236            | 6.4                         |
| 65+                           | 9.1%              | 11.6%       | 77.7%          | 1.6%        | 146            | 8.1                         |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                   |             |                |             |                |                             |
| High school or less           | 6.4%              | 11.2%       | 80.8%          | 1.7%        | 161            | 7.7                         |
| College or CEGEP              | 8.8%              | 11.0%       | 78.6%          | 1.6%        | 352            | 5.2                         |
| University or higher          | 8.3%              | 6.3%        | 85.3%          | 0.2%        | 413            | 4.8                         |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                   |             |                |             |                |                             |
| Liberal Party                 | 4.6%              | 5.3%        | 89.8%          | 0.3%        | 249            | 6.2                         |
| Conservative Party            | 21.5%             | 18.2%       | 59.1%          | 1.2%        | 223            | 6.6                         |
| NDP                           | 2.5%              | 7.8%        | 89.7%          | 0.0%        | 309            | 5.6                         |
| Green Party                   | 0.0%              | 1.6%        | 98.4%          | 0.0%        | 45             | 14.6                        |

### **Support for Environment Debate**

*Q. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:*

*We should have a debate devoted to the environment and climate change*

|                               | Disagree<br>(1-3) | Neither (4)  | Agree<br>(5-7) | DK/NR       | Sample<br>Size | Margin<br>of Error<br>(+/-) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NATIONALLY</b>             | <b>21.5%</b>      | <b>15.0%</b> | <b>61.4%</b>   | <b>2.1%</b> | <b>937</b>     | <b>3.2</b>                  |
| <b>REGION</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| British Columbia              | 13.0%             | 11.6%        | 73.9%          | 1.5%        | 132            | 8.5                         |
| Alberta                       | 42.0%             | 16.3%        | 40.3%          | 1.4%        | 103            | 9.7                         |
| Saskatchewan/Manitoba         | 27.4%             | 14.0%        | 57.0%          | 1.6%        | 76             | 11.2                        |
| Ontario                       | 20.3%             | 16.4%        | 61.1%          | 2.2%        | 306            | 5.6                         |
| Quebec                        | 18.5%             | 13.9%        | 65.7%          | 1.9%        | 178            | 7.4                         |
| Atlantic Canada               | 19.2%             | 17.2%        | 58.8%          | 4.8%        | 137            | 8.4                         |
| <b>GENDER</b>                 |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Male                          | 28.4%             | 12.2%        | 56.9%          | 2.5%        | 503            | 4.4                         |
| Female                        | 15.1%             | 17.7%        | 65.5%          | 1.7%        | 433            | 4.7                         |
| <b>AGE</b>                    |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| <35                           | 20.1%             | 12.9%        | 65.2%          | 1.8%        | 149            | 8.0                         |
| 35-44                         | 23.0%             | 17.2%        | 57.9%          | 1.9%        | 173            | 7.5                         |
| 45-54                         | 24.6%             | 17.4%        | 55.5%          | 2.5%        | 226            | 6.5                         |
| 55-64                         | 20.8%             | 14.3%        | 64.1%          | 0.8%        | 236            | 6.4                         |
| 65+                           | 19.0%             | 14.6%        | 63.7%          | 2.7%        | 146            | 8.1                         |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>              |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| High school or less           | 20.4%             | 14.1%        | 61.0%          | 4.5%        | 161            | 7.7                         |
| College or CEGEP              | 22.9%             | 18.6%        | 56.9%          | 1.5%        | 352            | 5.2                         |
| University or higher          | 21.0%             | 11.4%        | 67.5%          | 0.0%        | 413            | 4.8                         |
| <b>CURRENT VOTE INTENTION</b> |                   |              |                |             |                |                             |
| Liberal Party                 | 18.5%             | 13.4%        | 66.4%          | 1.6%        | 249            | 6.2                         |
| Conservative Party            | 53.9%             | 19.5%        | 25.1%          | 1.5%        | 223            | 6.6                         |
| NDP                           | 7.6%              | 12.9%        | 79.6%          | 0.0%        | 309            | 5.6                         |
| Green Party                   | 2.6%              | 10.7%        | 86.8%          | 0.0%        | 45             | 14.6                        |

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## Methodology:

This study was conducted using EKOS' unique, hybrid online/telephone research panel, *Prob/i*. Our panel offers exhaustive coverage of the Canadian population (i.e., Internet, phone, cell phone), random recruitment (in other words, participants are recruited randomly, they do not opt themselves into our panel), and equal probability sampling. All respondents to our panel are recruited by telephone using random digit dialling and are confirmed by live interviewers. Unlike opt-in online panels, *Prob/i* supports margin of error estimates. We believe this to be the only probability-based online panel in Canada.

This study involved an **online only** survey of 937 Canadians. While panellists are randomly recruited, the survey itself excludes the roughly 1 in 8 Canadians without internet access. The results should therefore be considered generalizable to Canada's *online* population. The field dates for this survey are May 29-June 1, 2015. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-3.2 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.