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Stalemate Continues:

CONSERVATIVES HOLD SLIGHT ADVANTAGE AMONG EARLY VOTERS

[Ottawa – October 16, 2015] As we enter the final weekend before Election Day, vote intentions appear to be settling in. At 34 points, the Liberals hold a marginal lead over the Conservatives who are at 33 points. At 23 points, the NDP are well back in terms of popular support, but the rather efficient distribution of their support means they will likely still be looking at a fairly impressive seat count on Monday.

The Liberals continue to lead in the key battleground of Ontario, although there is some evidence that the race may be narrowing here. Although the NDP maintains its lead in Quebec, the race remains unclear with both the Liberals and the Conservatives vying to make gains. The Liberals hold a clear lead in Atlantic Canada, while the Conservatives lead across the Prairies. British Columbia is still very much anyone's game.

The Liberals may be peeling back the senior vote from the Conservatives, as the Conservative advantage here has narrowed significantly over the last week. The biggest divide, however, remains education. The Liberals maintain a clear lead with university graduates, while the college educated have rallied around the Conservatives.

To account for those who have already voted, either at an advance poll or by special ballot, we ask Canadians whether they have already voted in this election. Overall, the two groups – those who have already voted and those who have not – mirror each other fairly closely in terms of party preference. Nevertheless, the Conservatives hold a slight advantage among early voters; indeed, if the election was called off and the victor determined by ballots already cast, the Conservatives would likely eke out a slim minority. Surprisingly, the Green Party fares quite well among early voters, which is highly notable for a party that routinely struggles to get its supporters to turn out on Election Day.

Finally, while we know that the percentage of early voters in our survey is exaggerated due to social desirability and other factors, we note that cellphone users are showing up in comparable numbers to their landline-using counterparts. Of those who do not have access to a landline, 23 per cent tell us they have already voted, compared to 26 per cent on average. This is a rather significant finding, as cellphone-only households have historically been less likely to vote and we would speculate that this does not bode well for Stephen Harper's prospects.

Federal vote intention

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, 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 19th?

National Results

(Change over October 12-14 poll below)



2011 Election Results



Liberal
 Conservative
 NDP
 green
 BLOC QUEBECOIS
 Other

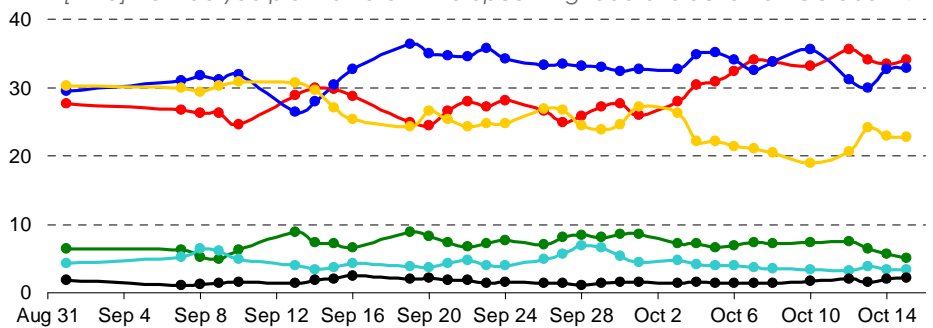
Note: Figures represent a three-day rolling sample.
 Figures based on decided and leaning voters only; 7.4% of respondents say they are undecided and 11.7% did not provide a valid response.

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BASE: Canadians; October 13-15, 2015 (n=1,813), MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

Tracking federal vote intention

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, 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 19th?



Liberal
 Conservative
 NDP
 green
 BLOC QUEBECOIS
 Other

Note: Each point represents a three-day rolling sample.
 Figures based on decided and leaning voters only; 7.4% of respondents say they are undecided and 11.7% did not provide a valid response.

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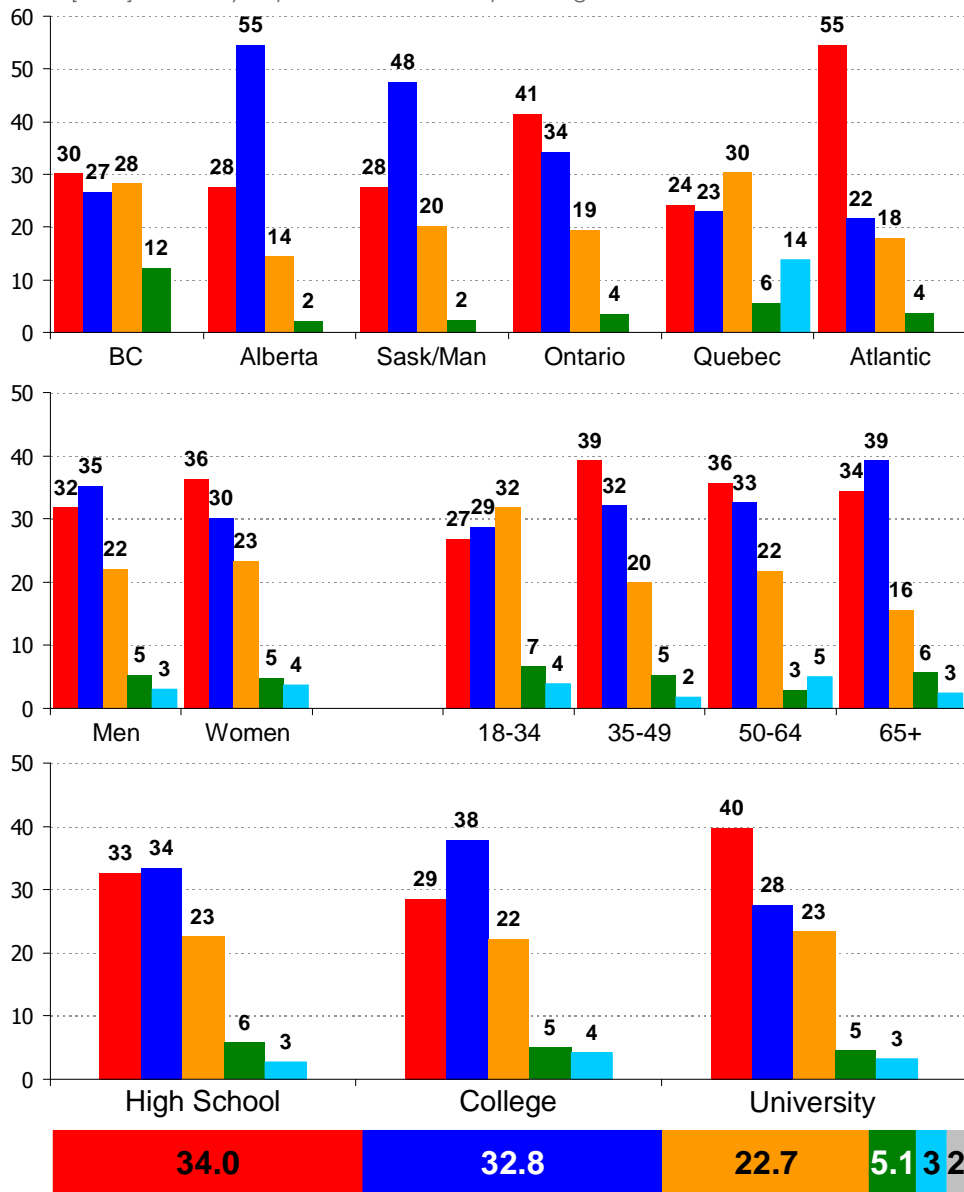
BASE: Canadians; October 13-15, 2015 (n=1,813), MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

Vote intention by region/demographics

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, 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 19th?



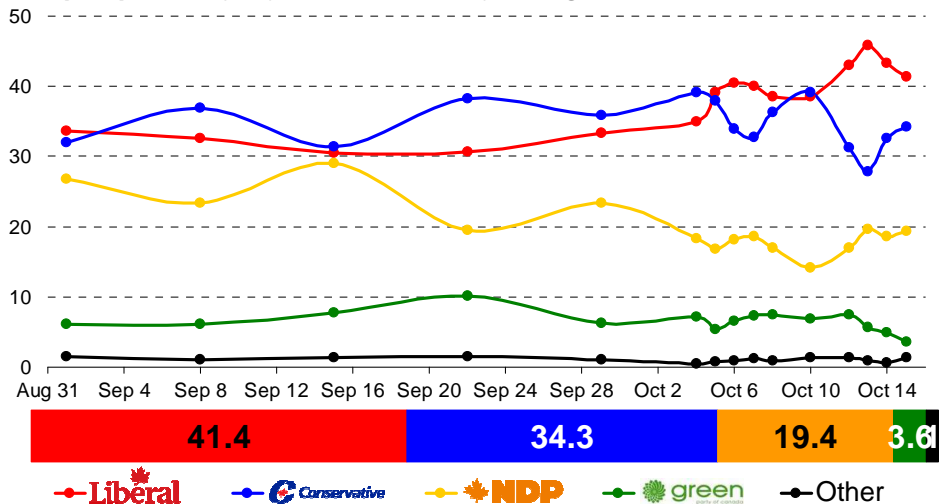
Liberal
 Conservative
 NDP
 Green
 BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS
 Other

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BASE: Canadians; October 13-15, 2015 (n=1,813), MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

Tracking vote intention: Ontario

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, 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 19th?

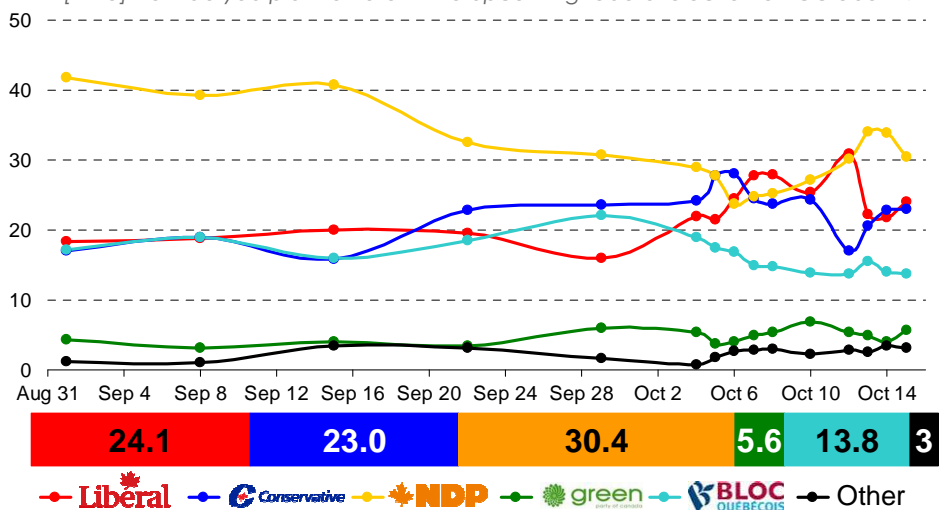


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BASE: Ontario residents; October 13-15, 2015 (n=625), MOE +/- 3.9%, 19 times out of 20

Tracking vote intention: Quebec

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, 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 19th?



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BASE: Quebec residents; October 13-15, 2015 (n=412), MOE +/- 4.8%, 19 times out of 20

Vote intention by early vote

Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, 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 19th?

Already voted



Not yet voted



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BASE: Canadians; October 13-15, 2015 (n=1,813), MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

Detailed Tables:

National Federal Vote Intention (decided and leaning voters only)								
<i>Q. Thinking about the upcoming federal election on October 19th, have you already voted either at an advance poll or by special ballot?</i>								
<i>[If Yes] How did you vote in this election?</i>								
<i>[If No] How do you plan to vote in the upcoming federal election on October 19th?</i>								
<i>[If undecided] Even if you do not have a firm idea, are you leaning towards a party?</i>								
<i>[If yes] As it stands, towards which party are you leaning?</i>								
	Liberal Party	Conser- vative Party	NDP	Green Party	Bloc Québécois	Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	34.0%	32.8%	22.7%	5.1%	3.4%	2.1%	1512	2.5
REGION								
British Columbia	30.1%	26.6%	28.2%	12.2%	–	3.0%	247	6.2
Alberta	27.7%	54.5%	14.4%	2.1%	–	1.4%	189	7.1
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	27.7%	47.6%	20.3%	2.3%	–	2.0%	114	9.2
Ontario	41.4%	34.3%	19.4%	3.6%	–	1.3%	515	4.3
Quebec	24.1%	23.0%	30.4%	5.6%	13.8%	3.1%	350	5.2
Atlantic Canada	54.6%	21.7%	17.9%	3.7%	–	2.1%	89	10.4
GENDER								
Male	31.8%	35.3%	22.0%	5.3%	3.1%	2.4%	789	3.5
Female	36.4%	30.2%	23.4%	4.8%	3.7%	1.5%	720	3.7
AGE								
<35	26.8%	28.8%	31.8%	6.6%	3.9%	2.1%	180	7.3
35-49	39.3%	32.1%	20.0%	5.3%	1.8%	1.5%	300	5.7
50-64	35.7%	32.6%	21.7%	2.9%	5.0%	2.1%	499	4.4
65+	34.4%	39.3%	15.6%	5.7%	2.5%	2.4%	526	4.3
EDUCATION								
High school or less	32.7%	33.5%	22.5%	5.8%	2.7%	2.9%	357	5.2
College or CEGEP	28.5%	37.8%	22.2%	5.0%	4.2%	2.2%	471	4.5
University or higher	39.8%	27.6%	23.4%	4.6%	3.3%	1.3%	671	3.8

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 figures in this report are based on a three-day rolling sample. Each day, a new day's worth of interviewing is added and the oldest day is dropped. The field dates for this survey are October 13-15, 2015. In total, a random sample of 1,813 Canadian adults aged 18 and over responded to the survey (1,331 by HD-IVR, 482 by live interviewer). 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, region, and educational attainment** to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.